COO'S WORLD

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アフタヌーン
KC247

クーの世界 1

小田ひで次

1

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Renei Hayashi is just about to enter junior high school when she wanders into her own dream. There she meets Coo, a young man who is the spitting image of the brother she lost in an accident.

This is only the beginning of the absurdity, however. Just about every single person and every single creature creature she meets is utterly out of this world.

As the earthly anxieties of the real world alternate with the preposterous insanity of the dream world, Renei is taken on a journey unlike any before.

COO'S WORLD

When I did my last manga, my two nieces, a fifth-grader and a seventh-grader, told me that they couldn't understand it at all. So with this manga, I wanted to create something that could be enjoyed by my two nieces and my friend's children. I'm very grateful to them for giving me this motivation, and I look forward to what other children their age think of this work. However, I did not intend for this manga to be read by children only, and it is my hope that it can be enjoyed by everyone, from Renei's age to her grandmother's.

June 2000, Hideji Oda

My name is Kana Nanamori. I'm 12 years old.
I've just entered junior high.

My brother pretends to not know me and calls himself Coo. I've known Ryota since I was little, but he is called Kyomu.
Coo's world. A world of sequential dreams. A world of absurdity and weirdness. It was into this world that I wandered one day.

The three of us embark on the daunting journey to find my home. Will I ever find it in Coo's world?
Why did I find myself here? What IS Coo's world?!

An experience like
never before. The
continuing dreams
began on the eve of
the school entran

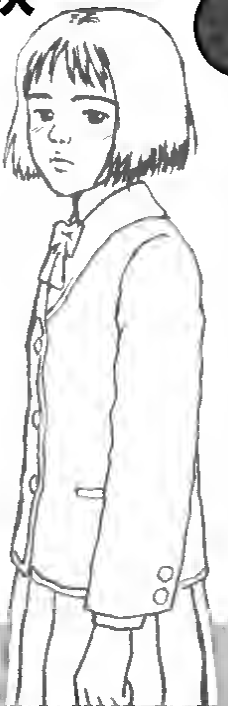
クーの世界

COO'S WORLD

小田ひで次

ODA HIDEJI

1



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RADISH, CARROT, TARO.
RADISH, CARROT, TARO.
RADISH, CARROT, TARO.
RADISH, CARROT...
OH...
DON'T FORGET THIS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TODAY, RENE!?
RENE!
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE
THANK YOU.
She's right. There IS something wrong with me lately.
Part of it's because I'm anxious about entering junior high. But it's not just that.
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO GO SENILE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TODAY, RENE!?

This inexplicable fear just keeps nagging at me, and to be honest, junior high is the least of my concerns right now...
Ever since my brother died in an accident last June, there's this feeling inside of me that just keeps growing...
And I can't help but feel that it might explode one day
...
??
??
SIGH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY IS TOMORROW
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
AH
RYOTA.
RENEI?!
YOUR UNIFORM IS SO BIG. ARE THEY HAND-ME-DOWNS?
AHA! I BET YOU CAME HERE TO SHOW OFF YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.
AT LEAST YOU LOOK LIKE A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT
OH WELL, I GUESS YOU'LL GROW INTO THEM EVENTUALLY.
PROBABLY
NOT THAT I'D BET ON IT
GEEZ, ROLL UP YOUR TROUSERS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

YOU BETTER GO HOME NOW RYOTA!
YOU DON'T WANNA ARRIVE LATE ON YOUR FIRST DAY!
DING DONG
DING DONG
OH, IT'S 6 O'CLOCK ALREADY
WHAT?!
YOU'RE STILL HERE?!
GEEZ, WHY IS HE SO EXCITED ABOUT ENTERING
RENEEEE!
STOP BEING SO CHILDISH!
slam
WHAT IS IT?!
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT!
clink

RYOTA AMAMORI!
HE CAME JUST TO SHOW OFF HIS SCHOOL UNIFORM. HE'S SO IMMATURE.
WHO WAS IT?
MOM, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE CHEAPER RADISH
OH, SO HE MADE IT INTO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HOW LOVELY
MOTHER, EVERYBODY MAKES IT INTO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
OH REALLY?
SIP
RYOTA MAY NOT BE VERY TALKATIVE, BUT HE'S VERY PERCEPTIVE
HE MAY GROW UP TO BECOME A GREAT MAN
ONLY A MORON LIKE HIM WOULD MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT
RENEI, YOUR MOUTH IS GETTING FOULER BY THE DAY

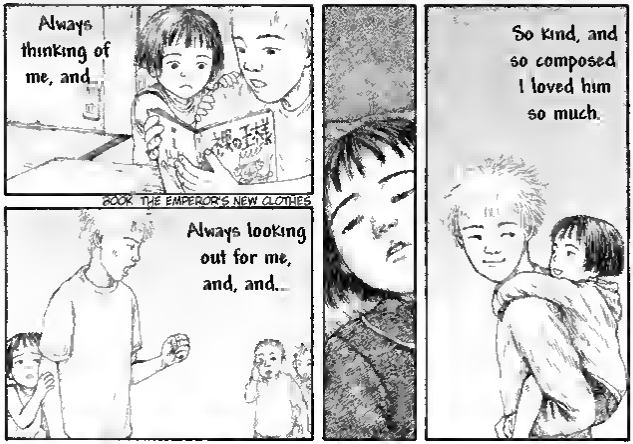
NOTE ZASHIKI-WARASHI - A MONSTER OUT OF JAPANESE FOLKLORE THAT IS SAID TO BRING LUCK TO THE FAMILY OF THE HOUSE IT INHABITS, BUT MISFORTUNE IF IT SHOULD EVER LEAVE

Well, the rest seems to be a mixture of these feelings that I can't put into words, and I can't get to sleep
20% of me is excited, another 20% worried. And the rest
The entrance ceremony is tomorrow...

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, RENE!
GEEZ, I LOOK PATHETIC...
I'M SORRY...
!!
KARA KARA
CLICK

R... RENE!?
GEEZ RYOTA, IT'S MIDNIGHT WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT WORRIED LOOK?
I DON'T NEED YOU WORRYING ABOUT ME!
YOU DOLT!
STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT!
SIGH!!

YOU DOLT!
OUCH
God, I'm turning into such a mean person...
B BROTHER
My father died when I was 2. I barely remember him.
It was my brother, 10 years older than me, who was the fatherly figure...


Always thinking of me, and...
BOOK THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
Always looking out for me, and, and...
So kind, and so composed. I loved him so much.

I miss you so much...
I'm going to enter junior high, Brother.
Brother!
Why did you have to die?!

Chapter 1 - My Brother is Coo

AH...THE SKY IS SO BLUE...
VAAH
VAAH
VAAH
VAAH
VAAH
MMM... SHEEP...
SHEEP...?
VAAH
VAAH
WHAT AM I DOING, SLEEPING HERE?
VAAH

VAAH
!!
VAAH
!!
VAAH
OH WAIT! THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY!
I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
EEK
VAAAH
AAGH,

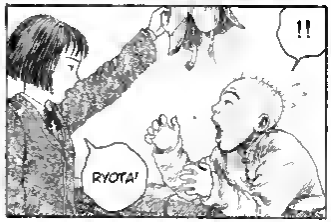
VAAH.
SOME... SOME...
SOMEBODY HELP...
EEK
SNIFF SNIFF
!?
ME
B.. BROTHER?!

BROTHER!!
UH . I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER.
MY NAME IS COO
UNGH!
BITE
OKAY OKAY!
STOP BEING STUPID AND HELP ME!
HEY KYOMU!! HELP ME OUT HERE!
WHOA!

HISHI!
HISHI!

KYOMU!
!

I DON'T KNOW...
AH.
COO, W-WHO IS THAT?


RYOTA!
!!

THUD

VAAH.

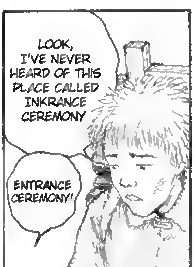
YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY TOO YOU KNOW!

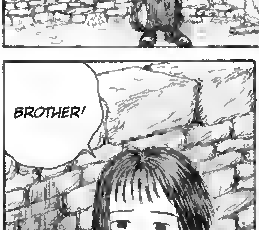
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, RYOTA?!

WHA
KYOMU, DO YOU KNOW THIS GIRL?
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE...
OH, I FORGOT MY WATCH.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TWO?!
My brother called himself Coo, and called Ryota Kyomu.
And for some reason, both of them denied knowing me.
What's going on here?

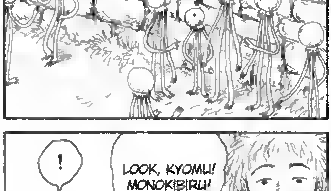
THE PLACE I HAVE TO GO IS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!
BUT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY IS PROBABLY OVER NOW

AND IT'S NOT A PLACE

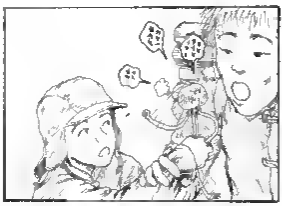

LOOK, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS PLACE CALLED INKRANCE CEREMONY
ENTRANCE CEREMONY!


BROTHER!

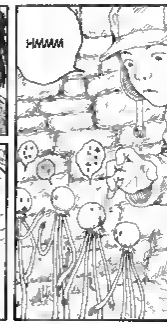
I HAVE TO GO HOME

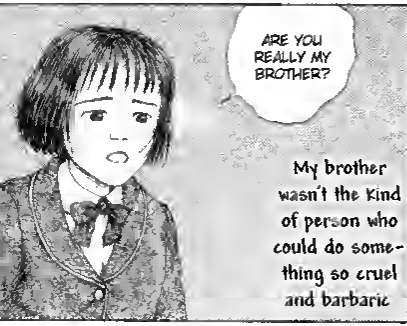

!
?
LOOK, KYOMU! MONOKIBIRU!
There's seems some thing

My brother and Ryota both ignored me. But I had no choice but to follow them...

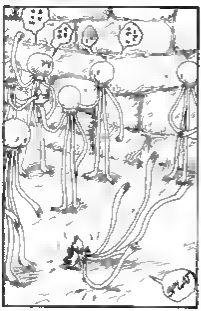


They're kind of cute

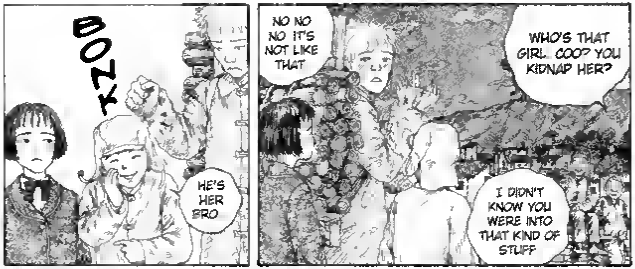

HMMM


ARE YOU REALLY MY BROTHER?
My brother wasn't the kind of person who could do something so cruel and barbaric

NO!!
CHIE


SNIP

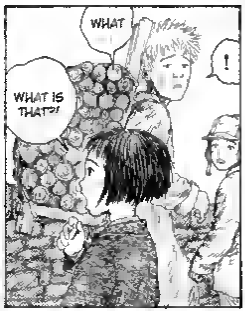
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER!

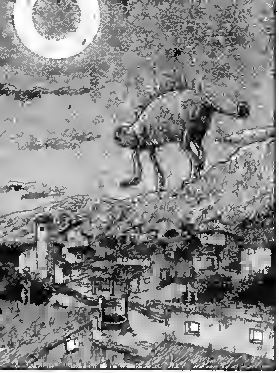

BONK
HE'S HER BRO
NO NO NO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
WHO'S THAT GIRL. COO? YOU KIDNAP HER?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF

I suppose it's possible that he just resembles him a lot
Is he really NOT my brother?

It seems that I've wandered into an outrageous place....
IPPO!
DON'T YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT AN IPPO IS?
IT'S NOT MOVING. IS IT ALIVE?
WON'T IT ATTACK US?

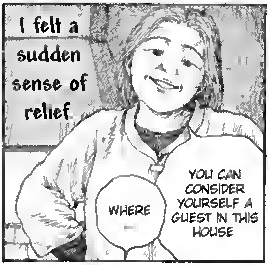
But...
!

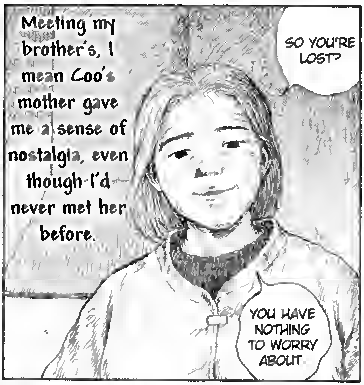

WHAT
!
WHAT IS THAT?!



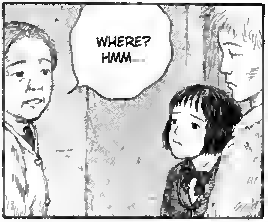
Why does he look so much like my brother..?

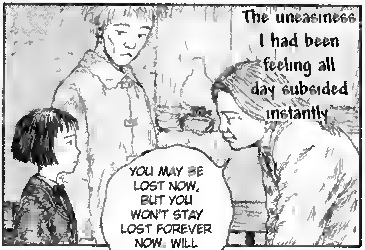
But still,


I felt a sudden sense of relief.
WHERE...
YOU CAN CONSIDER YOURSELF A GUEST IN THIS HOUSE

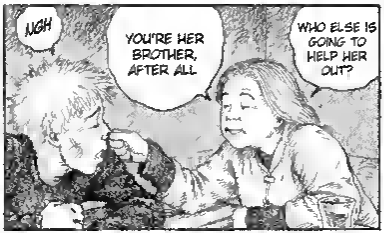

Meeting my brother's, I mean Coo's mother gave me a sense of nostalgia, even though I'd never met her before.
SO YOU'RE LOST?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

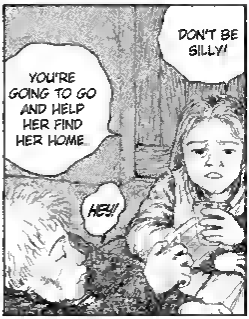
WHERE IS THIS PLACE?


WHERE? HMM...


The uneasiness I had been feeling all day subsided instantly.
YOU MAY BE LOST NOW, BUT YOU WON'T STAY LOST FOREVER NOW. WILL YOU?

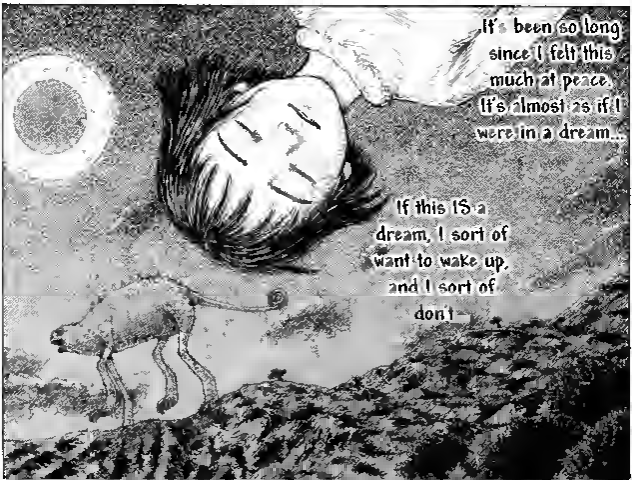
I rarely ever cried, even in front of my own mother
...
I was shocked that my brother treated me like a stranger, so I'm sure that played a part
...
OH MY
HIC
The emotions just kept pouring out, and I was crying over all sorts of things
But there was something about her that made me feel like it was all right to cry
COO!
ERM? I'M NO PEDOPHILE!
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE'S FROM.
DON'T WORRY RENE, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT GOOD NIGHT


UGH
YOU'RE HER BROTHER, AFTER ALL
WHO ELSE IS GOING TO HELP HER OUT?


DON'T BE SILLY!
YOU'RE GOING TO GO AND HELP HER FIND HER HOME
HEY!!

I don't know why, but I feel so relaxed, even though everything seems so wrong
YOU BETTER PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY IT MIGHT BE A LONG ONE!
GIMME A BREAK!

WHAAART? WHRY MEEB?!


It's been so long since I felt this much at peace. It's almost as if I were in a dream...
If this IS a dream, I sort of want to wake up, and I sort of don't.

AH...
YOU SLEPT IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM?!
YOU'RE GOING TO CREASE IT ALL UP!
RENE!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
RENE!
RENE!!!
So it was a dream...
HURRY DOWN, RENE!
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH ROOM TO CALL RYOTA A SLOB, DO YOU?
It felt so real...
But why did my brother...?

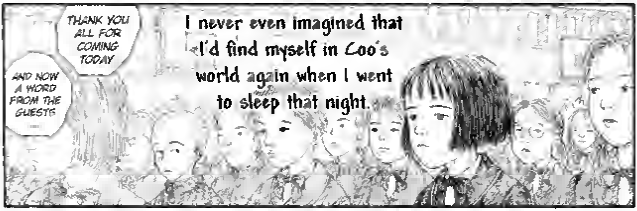
Whoa!!
I completely forgot for a moment...
!!
How silly of me...
He no longer exists...
He's dead.
So it wasn't like my daily life changed because of his death.
He died less than a year ago in a faraway town, but it's been 4 years since he left the house.
Why would I forget something like that?
SIGH
But I guess it makes sense.

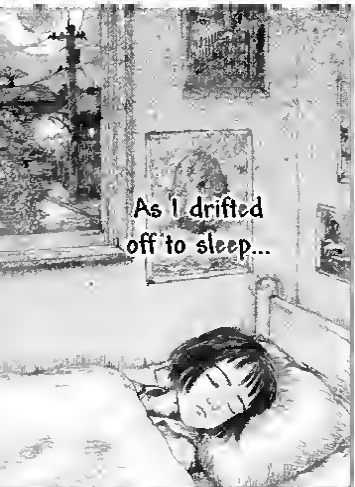
Maybe a part of me likes to think that he's still living somewhere far away.
Maybe I'm having trouble accepting reality
The coldness of his body. The dry clatter of his bones. The memories are so vivid, but yet...
Maybe I still haven't come to terms with the loss
I DREAMED OF HIM DYING SO MANY TIMES WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE
BUT NOW THAT HE'S DEAD, HE SEEMS SO ALIVE WHEN I DREAM OF HIM

I GOT LOST IN THIS REALLY WEIRD PLACE AND THEN I FOUND BROTHER AND RYOTA, SO I THOUGHT "OH GOOD." BUT THEY PRETENDED LIKE THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME!
NO MOTHER, SHE...
I HAD A WEIRD DREAM.
GOOD MORNING
YOU'RE DRESSED ALREADY?
YOUR AGES WERE FAR APART, BUT YOU TWO WERE AS CLOSE AS TWINS...
HOW WAS HE DOING?
AH...
REALLY
MAYBE HE WANTED TO CONGRATULATE YOU FOR ENTERING JUNIOR HIGH...
I MADE THINGS GLOOMY, DIDN'T I?
ACK, I'M SORRY
IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO NICE IF HE COULD SEE YOU IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM...
YOU NEVER LEFT ANY SPACE FOR ANYONE ELSE TO GET IN BETWEEN YOU TWO

I'M GONNA GO, MOM!
RENEI, WAIT!
KYOMU
AH
LET'S GO!
RENEI!
Ngh.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO APPEAR IN MY DREAM UNINVITED RYOTA!

It was just a dream as far as I was concerned at the time. There was an eerily realistic feel to it, but it was just a dream.
AND NOW A SPEECH FROM THE FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE, SHIN NATSUME
YES SIR!

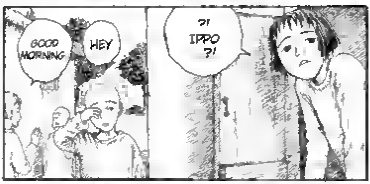

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY
AND NOW A WORD FROM THE GUESTS
I never even imagined that I'd find myself in Coo's world again when I went to sleep that night.


As I drifted off to sleep...

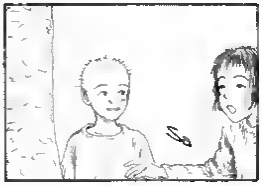
BROTHER, I WISH YOU'D STOP PRETENDING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ME IF YOU'RE GOING TO APPEAR

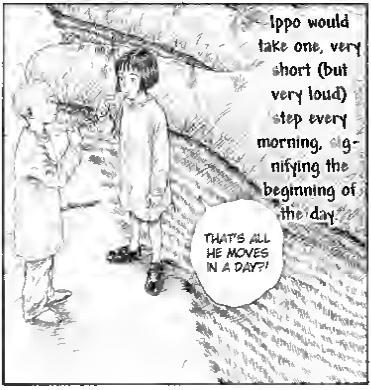
Nishi
BAM
!?
squiggle
squiggle

WOW


GOOD MORNING
HEY
?!
IPPO
?!

TICKLE
TICKLE



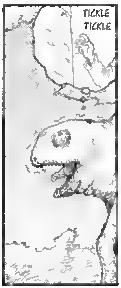

Ippo would take one, very short (but very loud) step every morning, signifying the beginning of the day.
THAT'S ALL HE MOVES IN A DAY?!

WRITING: APRIL 7 THE DAY OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY

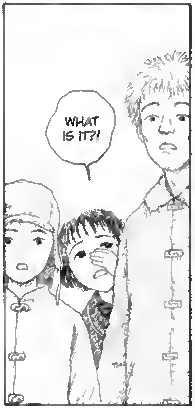
BE SURE TO WRITE TO ME WHEN YOU GET THERE, RENE!
I PROMISE!
WHEN YOU'RE IN DISTRESS
LIDO WILL PROTECT YOU...
THIS IS LIDO A TALISMAN
I PROMISE!
TAKE CARE, RENE!
WATCH OUT FOR HER, COO!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?
GEEZ YOU'RE COMING ALONG?

HEGO
HEGO
?
?
?
ゲラゲラ ゲラ

brrrrrrr


TICKLE
TICKLE

SNIFF
SNIFF


WHAT IS IT?!

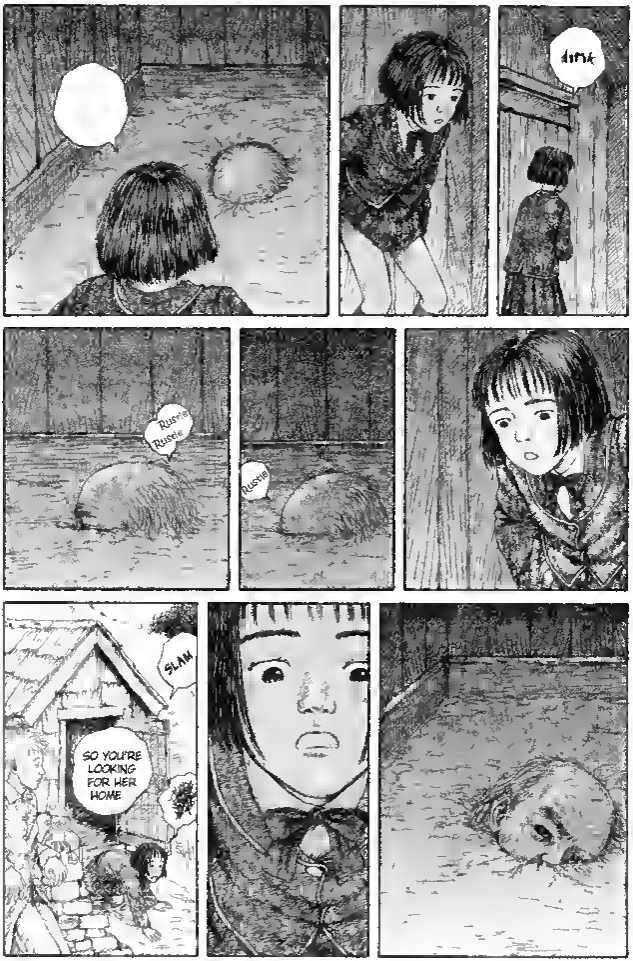
BUMP

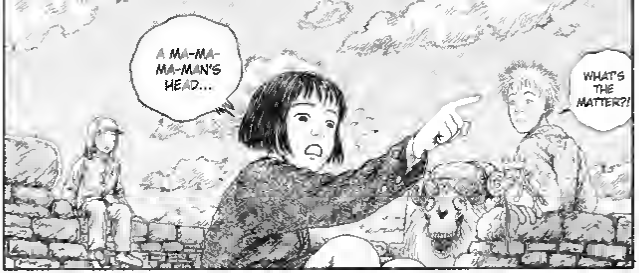
I barely spent time with her, but this is breaking my heart...

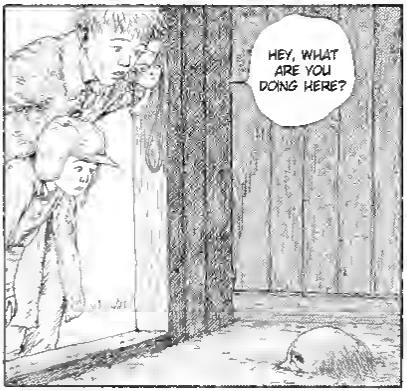
AHEM, I AM THE ALMIGHTY KING
MY KINGDOM THRIVES, AND MY PEOPLE LOVE AND RESPECT ME...
BUT ALAS, I HAVE GROWN TOO OLD!
THE DECISION I REACHED!
MY SON IS A GROWN MAN NOW. I SHOULD NOT CLING TO POWER INDEFINITELY!
I STILL HAD PLENTY OF ENERGY LEFT. BUT AS LONG AS I STAY IN POWER...
AND SO I CONFERRED THE THRONE TO MY SON.
THAT WAS THE DECISION

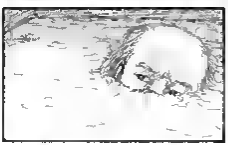
IN OTHER WORDS I AM AN EMBODIMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF KING*1
HAVING GIVEN UP MY THRONE, I AM NOW MERELY A "A KING-LIKE FIGURE"!
AH! HOW ASTUTE OF YOU TO NOTICE!
HIS SHADOW IS RARELY VISIBLE IS HE A GHOST?!
Just Ignore him
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SEEING ME LIKE THIS
AH, I HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU PEOPLE
I SHALL EMPLOY YOU AS RETAINERS TO ACCOMPANY ME ON MY TRAVELS!
IT SHALL BE AN ENJOYABLE JOURNEY INDEED
OH, YOU WANNA PEE?
HUH? WHAT?
HEY!
AH, WHAT A SPECTACULAR VIEW!
BRO ...
THEN GO SOMEWHERE AND PEE, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
AH, THERE IS A LAVATORY OVER THERE

A RESOURCEFUL KING I AM!
GO ON GIRL! YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO URINATE!
AH
I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF I COULD HAVE IT BACK, YOUR MAJESTY!
YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS...
DON'T LOSE IT, OKAY?
HOW RUDE!
WHAT KIND OF AN UNCULTURED GIRL WOULD TAKE HER TALISMAN TO THE LAVATORY?
eh?
I SHALL KEEP IT FOR YOU!
SQUEAK
so cute
squeeze

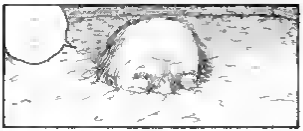

drink
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
SLAM
SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HER HOME


A MA-MA-MA-MAN'S HEAD...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!


HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



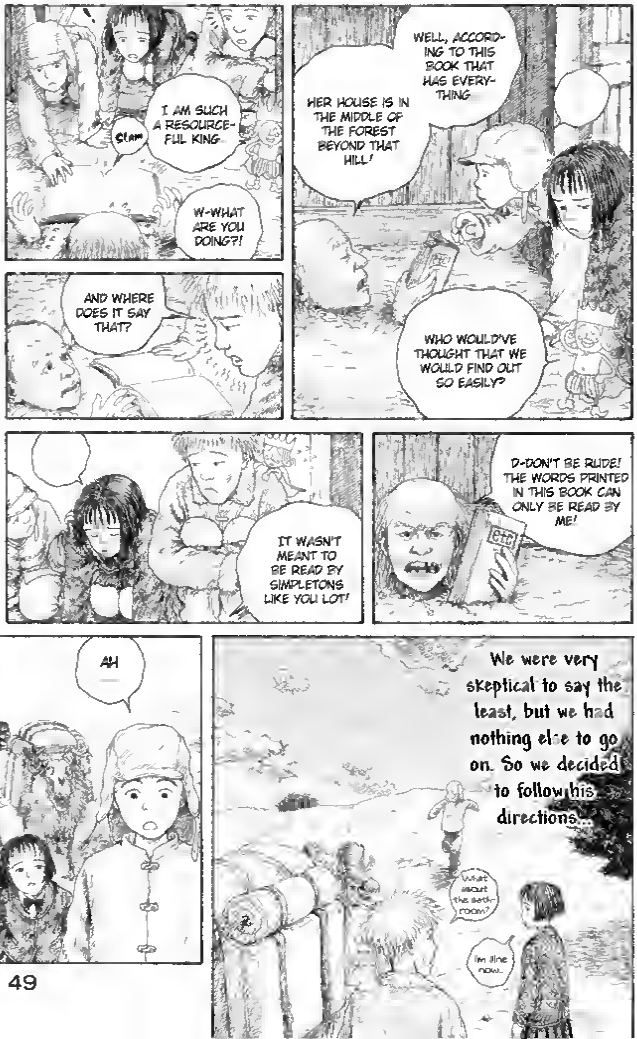
WHAT ARE YOU BEING STILL FOR?
I AM WAITING FOR TIME TO PASS...

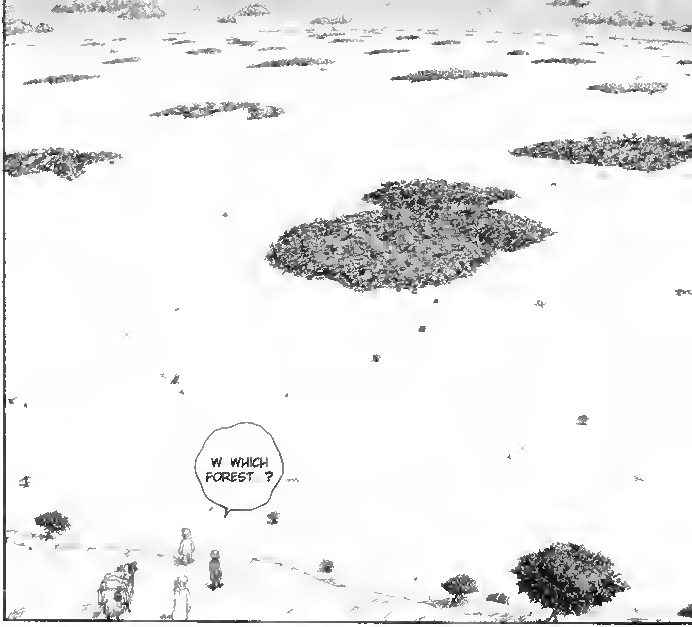


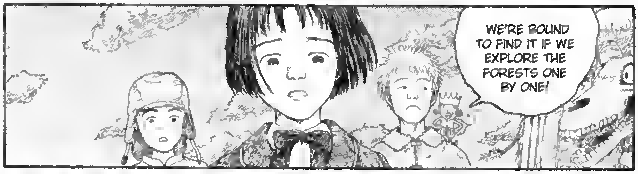
I AM BEING STILL

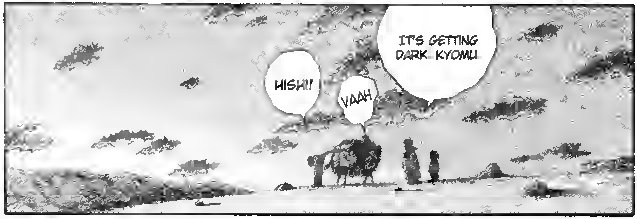
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR DISRESPECT!!
MEDITATING?! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED IN MY LIFE!
ARE YOU MEDITATING?
TIME JUST PASSES
MEDITATING?!
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TIME PASSES?
YES
THE GIRL'S HOME?
HMPH
FLIP
OH DEAR.
FLIP
IF I MAY ASK, WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE HER HOME IS?
HEY!
I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CHOICE!
SNIK
SNIK
I'LL TELL YOU IF YOU GIVE ME THAT
THIS?!
YOU'RE A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR.
LET'S SEE OH, HERE IT IS!
IS HE SERIOUS?
IT'S WRITTEN HERE

GIVE IT BACK!
HEY, STOP IT!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT BACK!
SHAKE SHAKE
AH
SNIK
THAT WAS A GIFT FROM
SNIK
SNIK
WH, WHAT HAP-PENED ?
AH
MY WHAT A VIOLENT GIRL!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
W-WELL, AS LONG AS YOU FIND YOUR HOME
THE TALISMAN WILL HAVE FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE
I DROPPED IT
RENE!
NOOOOO..
IT'S DRIFTED AWAY SOME-WHERE


I AM SUCH A RESOURCE-FUL KING
Slam
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AND WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT?
WELL, ACCORD-ING TO THIS BOOK THAT HAS EVERY-THING
HER HOUSE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST BEYOND THAT HILL!
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD FIND OUT SO EASILY?
IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE READ BY SIMPLETONS LIKE YOU LOT!
D-DON'T BE RUDE! THE WORDS PRINTED IN THIS BOOK CAN ONLY BE READ BY ME!
Ehh
AH
We were very skeptical to say the least, but we had nothing else to go on. So we decided to follow his directions...
What about the bath-room?
In line now...


W WHICH FOREST ?


WE'RE BOUND TO FIND IT IF WE EXPLORE THE FORESTS ONE BY ONE!

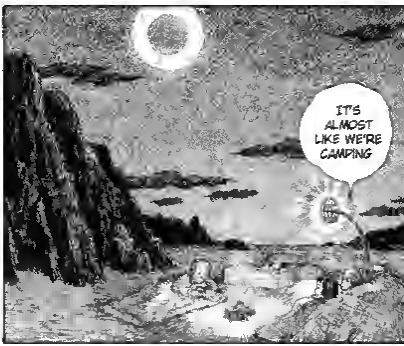

IT'S GETTING DARK. KYOMU.
HISH!!
VAAH

VAAH
SPIN
HISH!!
KOAK
KOAK
VAAAH
SPIN
SPIN
WOW.
KSHU

A STRAY LIGHT

SOMETHING THAT THE DAYLIGHT LEFT BEHIND

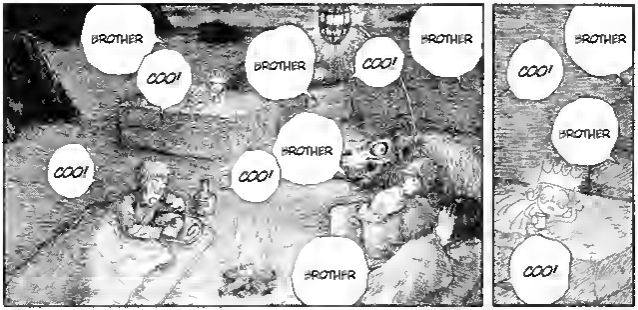
MY NAME'S COO!
WE USED TO CAMP A LOT WHEN WE'RE LITTLE, REMEMBER BROTHER?


IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE CAMPING

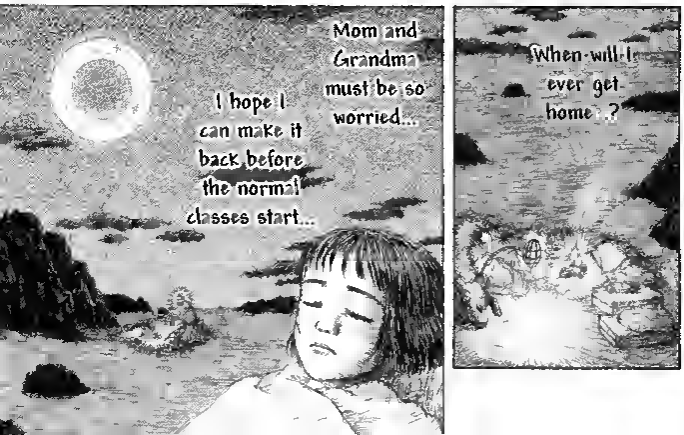
GO TO SLEEP, ALRIGHT?

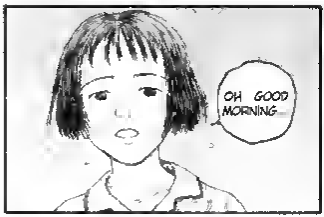
BROTHER
COO!

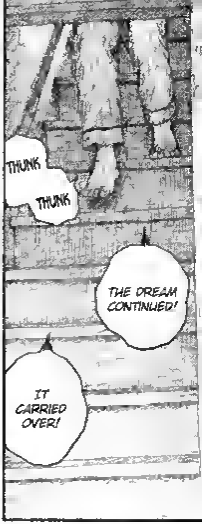
GOOD NIGHT, BROTHER!
COO!

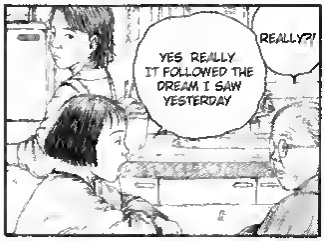

BROTHER
COO!
BROTHER
COO!
BROTHER
COO!
BROTHER
COO!
BROTHER
BROTHER
COO!
BROTHER
COO!

PHEW
COO!
BRO.

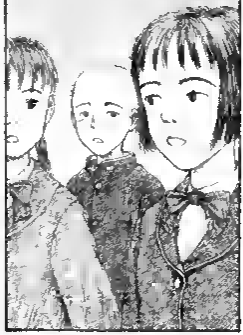

Mom and Grandma must be so worried...
I hope I can make it back before the normal classes start...
When will I ever get home...?

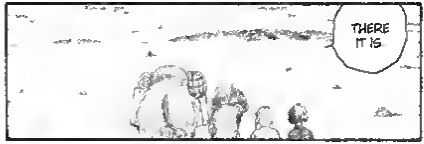






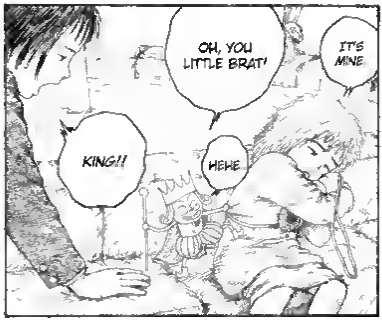
With the excitement of the dream continuing, the anxieties I had about entering junior high dissipated

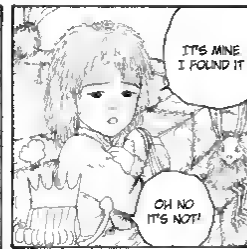




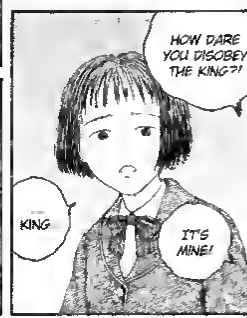
What if it continued on the next night too? Yes, a part of me hoped for that...

The town was bustling with activity, but there was a dismal atmosphere lingering in the air.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S...
THERE'S SO MANY HOUSES HERE. ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO BE YOURS, DON'T YOU THINK?
LOTS OF PEOPLE LOTS OF HOUSES.
The forest gave way to a large town.
!
HEY, THAT'S MINE!
THIS IS SO CUTE!
ER... I MEAN, HERS! YES HERS! GIVE IT BACK!
WOW!
ZORU
MMM?


OH, YOU LITTLE BRAT!
IT'S MINE
KING!!
HEHE


IT'S MINE I FOUND IT
OH NO IT'S NOT!

YOU CAN HAVE IT. I LOST IT ONCE ANYWAY
THANK YOU
HIS NAME IS UOO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, OKAY?


HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY THE KING?!
KING
IT'S MINE!

THUD
SNIF SNIF

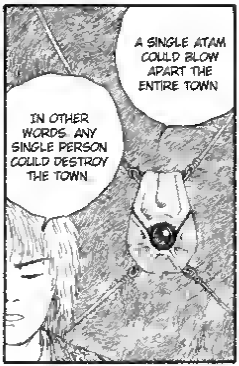
OH
TRIP

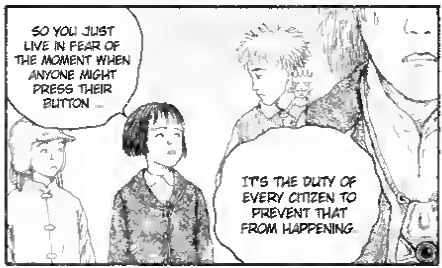
WELL, LET'S START LOOKING

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WAAAAAAAH
UDOOOOOO
I KNOW
YOU CAN HAVE MY RIBBON.
HE DRIFTED OFF AGAIN
NOOOOO
We were searching around the town aimlessly ...
HOW ABOUT THAT HOUSE?
LOOKS PRETTY NICE, IF YOU ASK ME WHY DON'T YOU SETTLE FOR THAT ONE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SETTLE"?
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!
SNIFF SNIFF
THANK YOU.
TAKE CARE OKAY? GOODBYE

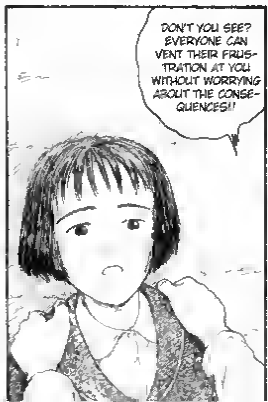
WHAT IS THIS?!
When we noticed that people were giving us funny looks
HEY, THEY'RE NOT WEARING ATAMS
YEAH.
COME HERE
WHAT?
TUG
SEE THIS? AN ATAM. EVERYBODY IN THIS TOWN WEARS ONE
HE'S RIGHT!
YOU MUST BE THE PEOPLE THAT AREN'T WEARING ATAMS
HUH?
WHAT... WHY WOULD YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE
BECAUSE IT ENABLES US TO LIVE IN PEACE
THIS ATAM IS A SMALL BUT POWERFUL BOMB
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU GAVE YOUR RIBBON TO MY SISTER. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH

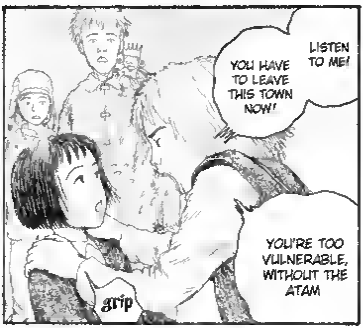
BOOM
SO THE PRESENCE OF THESE ATAMS DETER EVERYONE FROM CAUSING TROUBLE
Don't
So will I!
I'm gonna do it!
Don't be rash.


A SINGLE ATAM COULD BLOW APART THE ENTIRE TOWN
IN OTHER WORDS, ANY SINGLE PERSON COULD DESTROY THE TOWN


SO YOU JUST LIVE IN FEAR OF THE MOMENT WHEN ANYONE MIGHT PRESS THEIR BUTTON...
IT'S THE DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING

THAT SOUNDS ABSURD
WHAT IF SOMEONE LOSES THEIR COOL AND DETONATES IT?

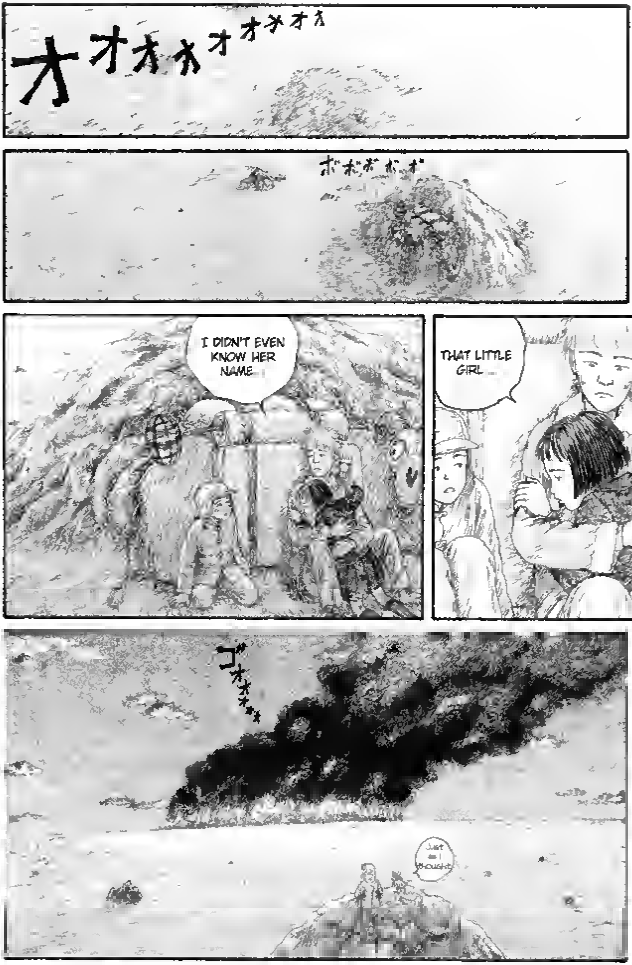

DON'T YOU SEE? EVERYONE CAN VENT THEIR FRUSTRATION AT YOU WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES!!

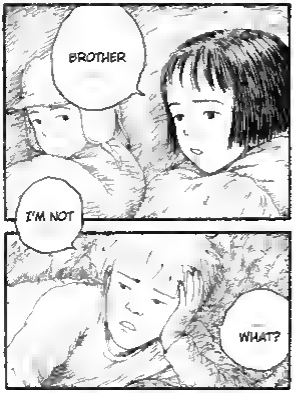

LISTEN TO ME!
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THIS TOWN NOW!
YOU'RE TOO VULNERABLE, WITHOUT THE ATAM
grip

There's no telling what they'll do to you...
You must leave now and go as far away as possible.
SHE WAS SO SMALL
WHAT IF SHE TRIPS AND —
WHAT AROUT THAT GIRL ?
WHAT IF SOMEONE DETONATES IT INADVERTENTLY?
COME ON, WILL YOU HURRY UP?
AH
GET YOUR STUFF READY, KYOMU
COME ON

BOOM

THAT LITTLE GIRL
NO!!!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
LIH-OH
WATCH OUT FOR THE BOMB BLAST!!
ブオオオオオオオオ


オオオオオオオ
ボボボボボ
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME...
THAT LITTLE GIRL...
ゴオオオ
...JUST AS I WOULD'VE



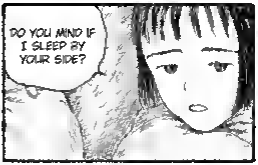
An entire town disappeared, taking with it the tens of thousands who lived there, and that little girl wearing my ribbon...

He kept on insisting that his name was Coo.

But there was no mistaking the warmth of the hand he placed, however reluctantly, on my shoulder.

His touch
His smell
His...

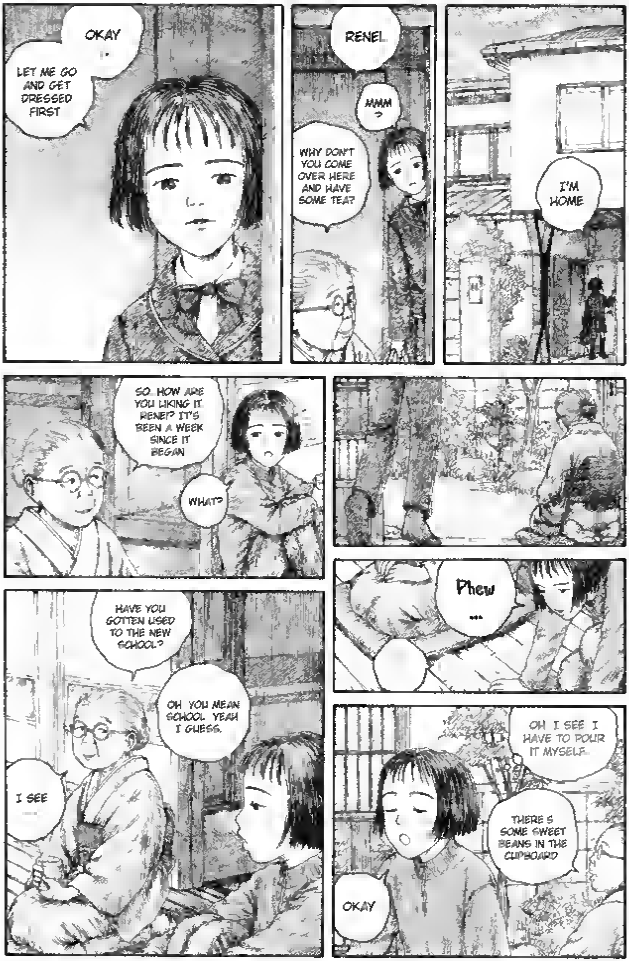
I knew this warmth
It was my brother's.



IT CONTINUED AGAIN
BROTHER
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
GOOD MORNING
HOW WAS THE DREAM? DID YOU DREAM ABOUT HIM AGAIN?
I SEE. WELL IT WOULD'VE BEEN REALLY SOMETHING IF IT CONTINUED FOR 3 DAYS
MMM, I DON'T REMEMBER.
HI.
HEY.
Really something?! Really insane is more like it!
How can she be so casual about this?!

The anxieties came back again, larger than ever before.
NOBODY WOULD EVER BELIEVE ME
sigh
What if it goes on like this forever? Am I going mad ..?
This is too weird Whoever-heard of a dream that continues for 3 days..?
I'm going to dream a normal dream tonight...
A normal dream...
A normal ...
I only dream it because I worry about it
That's it!
IT'S JUST A DREAM FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

When I
awoke...


OKAY
LET ME GO AND GET DRESSED FIRST
RENE!
MMM ?
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE AND HAVE SOME TEA?
I'M HOME
SO, HOW ARE YOU LIKING IT RENE? IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE IT BEGAN
WHAT?
Phew ...
HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO THE NEW SCHOOL?
OH, YOU MEAN SCHOOL. YEAH I GUESS.
I SEE ...
OH, I SEE I HAVE TO POUR IT MYSELF.
THERE'S SOME SWEET BEANS IN THE CUPBOARD
OKAY

HOW IS HE?
YOUR BROTHER
!

EVERYONE'S ALL NERVOUS BECAUSE THEY'RE SCARED OF BEING THE BULLIED KID I THOUGHT AS MUCH
IT'S A BIT OF A DRAG ACTUALLY EVERY ONE'S SO TIMID AND BORING
OH...

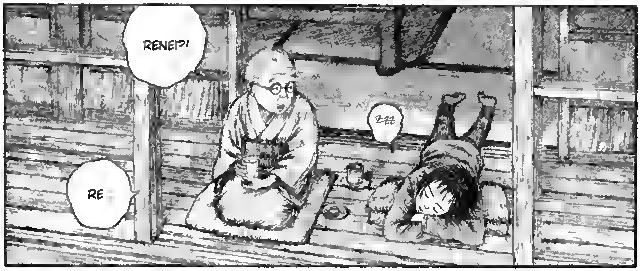
To tell the truth, I've been dreaming about Coo's World every night for the whole week, ever since that night before the entrance ceremony.
I'm still looking for home...

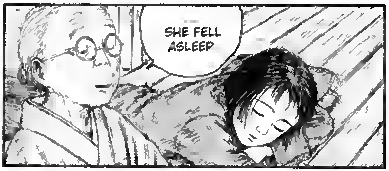
GRANDMA...

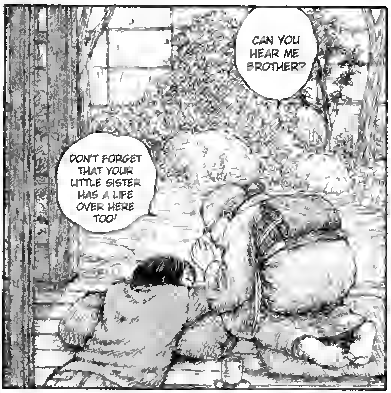
GRANDMA, I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME
DON'T BE SILLY THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU
AL-THOUGH...
I DO THINK THAT YOU'VE BECOME MORE RESOLVED THAN YOU USED TO BE

RIGHT, RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING ELSE CHANGED, RIGHT?
I MEAN SO WHAT IF THE DREAMS CONTINUE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO WORRIED, GRANDMA. I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT NOW.
YEAH.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVED YOU RENE! HE WOULD NEVER WISH ANY ILL UPON YOU.
BUT I WONDER WHY I KEEP SEEING THEM. WHY DO I DREAM ABOUT HIM EVERY NIGHT?
I WONDER IF HIS SPIRIT IS STILL STUCK IN THE LIVING WORLD...
AM I BEING HAUNTED BY HIS GHOST...?
YOU KNOW WHAT, THOUGH? I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO ENJOY IT. I MEAN, I GET TO MEET HIM EVERY NIGHT, EVEN IF IT IS JUST A DREAM.
MAYBE THIS IS HIS CURSE.
A CURSE? ABSOLUTE NONSENSE!

HE'S ALWAYS SO BARBARIC AND UNCOUTH
HMM, BUT MAYBE HE WAS JUST BEING HIS TRUE SELF
I JUST WISH HE'D ACT A LITTLE MORE GENTLE
THE HARD PART IS WHEN I WAKE UP AND REMEMBER THAT HE'S DEAD, THOUGH
BUT WHENEVER I GO TO SLEEP HERE, I ALWAYS WAKE UP THERE
SO IT'S LIKE... I NEVER GET ANY SLEEP AT ALL
MAYBE IN REAL LIFE, HE WAS FORCING HIMSELF TO ACT LIKE A RESPONSIBLE BROTHER FOR YOUR SAKE.
AND IT'S ALL...
I SEE...
SO TIRING...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID SEEM MORE LIVELY AND CAREFREE IN THE DREAM.


RENE!?
RE...
ｽﾔｽﾔ


SHE FELL ASLEEP


CAN YOU HEAR ME BROTHER?
DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER HAS A LIFE OVER HERE TOO!

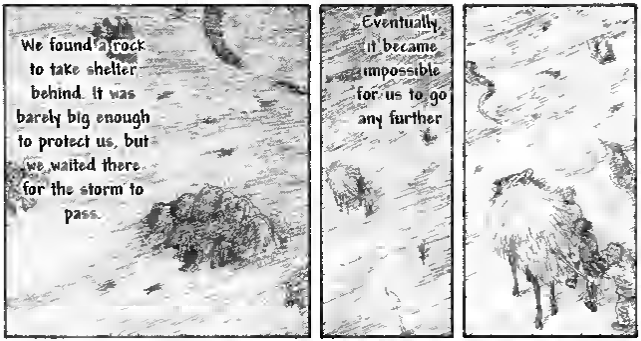
RENE!

ゴゴゴゴゴ…
RENE!

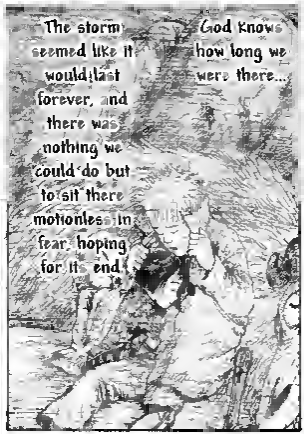
Chapter 2 – I Am in a Dream
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴ
A SAND-STORM IS COMING. WE HAVE TO HURRY!
!!

ゴゴゴゴゴ
WAKE UP, RENE!!
?

The storm was sweeping away everything in sight...
I awoke to the sudden outbreak of a sandstorm
HANG ON TO MY COAT! DON'T LET GO, OKAY?
OKAY!!
Showing no signs of ever subsiding
Our visibility virtually nil, we had no choice but to stubbornly plod on forward


We found a rock to take shelter behind. It was barely big enough to protect us, but we waited there for the storm to pass.
Eventually, it became impossible for us to go any further

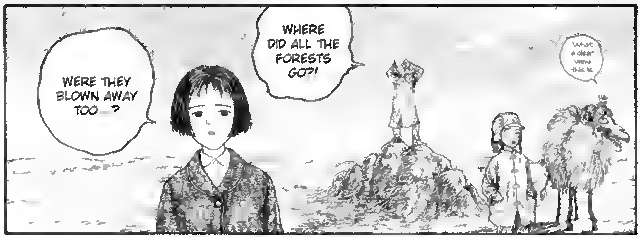
And then it suddenly stopped, as if it never even happened in the first place

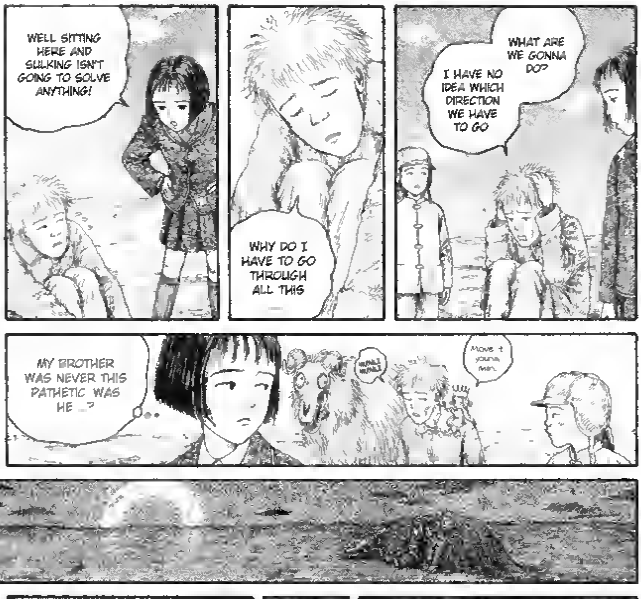

The storm seemed like it would last forever, and there was nothing we could do but to sit there motionless in fear, hoping for its end.
God knows how long we were there...

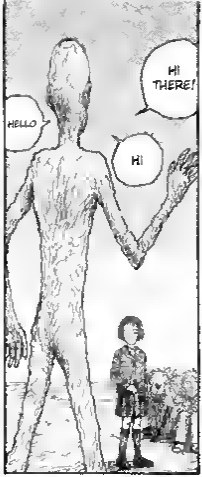
THIS IS KIND OF NICE THOUGH

We found ourselves in the middle of a vast desert, deprived of all sense of direction.

OH GEEZ, WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!




WELL SITTING HERE AND SULKING ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING!
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS
I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH DIRECTION WE HAVE TO GO
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
MY BROTHER WAS NEVER THIS PATHETIC WAS HE...?
WHAT WHAT
Move it you're in my way.
But there was nothing to be seen above the horizon...
I'M SO HUNGRY
AND SO THIRSTY
Wolf
Wolf
Wolf
Wolf
THE MOON IS SO WEIRD
We continued our trek helplessly, devoid of any food or water...
CLANK
CLANK


HELLO
HI
HI THERE!

HEY LOOK SOMEONE'S COMING!

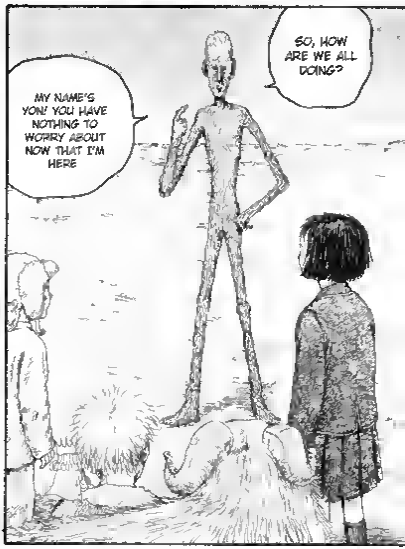
I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE

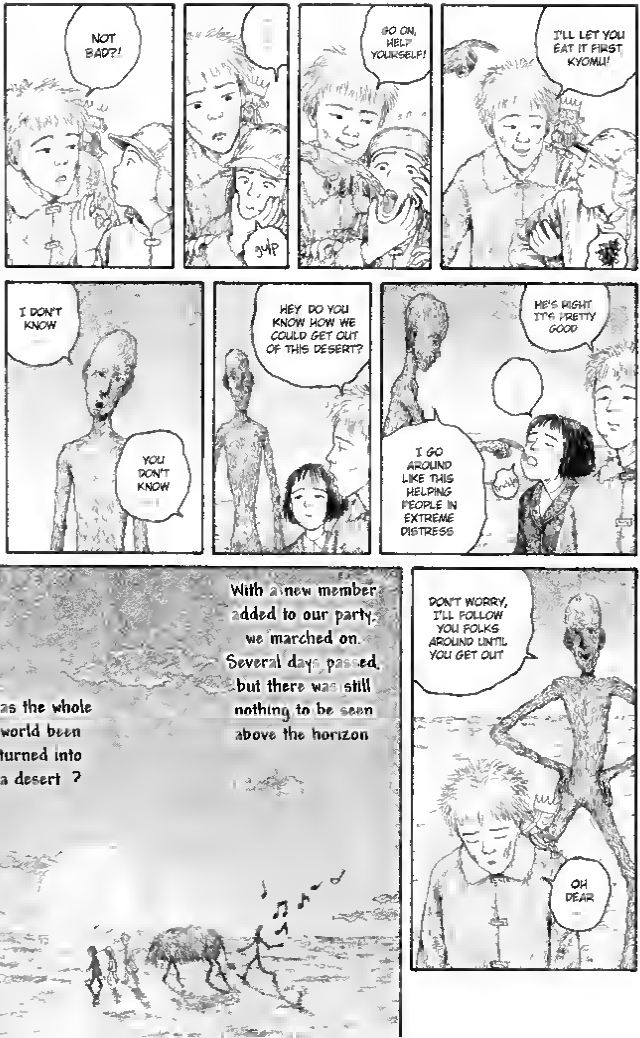
WELL THAT'S TOO BAD BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

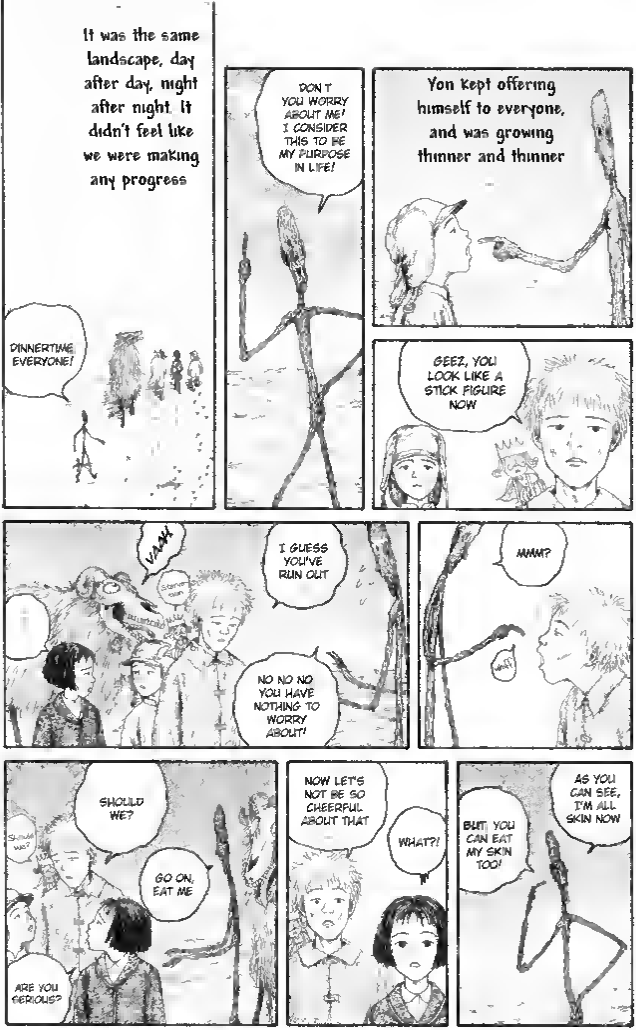
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HELP US? YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON YOU!

?
DON'T WORRY JUST OPEN YOUR MOUTH!

HERE YOU GO!
SWALLOW
YIKES.

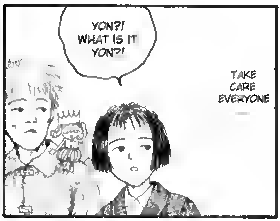

SO, HOW ARE WE ALL DOING?
MY NAME'S YONI YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW THAT I'M HERE


NOT BAD?!
gulp
GO ON, HELP YOURSELF!
I'LL LET YOU EAT IT FIRST KYOMU!
I DON'T KNOW
YOU DON'T KNOW
HEY DO YOU KNOW HOW WE COULD GET OUT OF THIS DESERT?
HE'S RIGHT IT'S PRETTY GOOD
I GO AROUND LIKE THIS HELPING PEOPLE IN EXTREME DISTRESS
Has the whole world been turned into a desert ?
With a new member added to our party, we marched on. Several days passed, but there was still nothing to be seen above the horizon
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FOLLOW YOU FOLKS AROUND UNTIL YOU GET OUT
OH DEAR

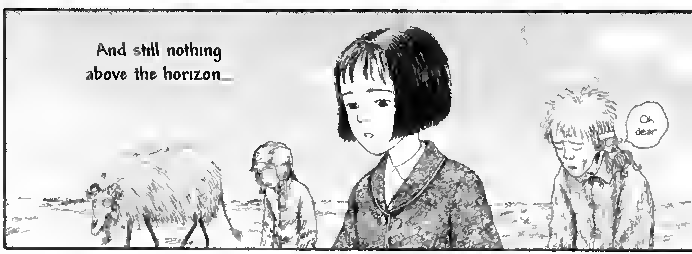

It was the same landscape, day after day, night after night. It didn't feel like we were making any progress
DINNERTIME, EVERYONE!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME! I CONSIDER THIS TO BE MY PURPOSE IN LIFE!
Yon kept offering himself to everyone, and was growing thinner and thinner
GEEZ, YOU LOOK LIKE A STICK FIGURE NOW
I GUESS YOU'VE RUN OUT
NO NO NO YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
MMM?
SHOULD WE?
GO ON, EAT ME
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
NOW LET'S NOT BE SO CHEERFUL ABOUT THAT
WHAT?!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M ALL SKIN NOW
BUT YOU CAN EAT MY SKIN TOO!

HISH!!!!!!
!!
NOOOOO
OO!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

With Yon gone completely, the feeling of dread set in again.
YON
...
YAAH
...


YON?! WHAT IS IT YON?!
TAKE CARE EVERYONE

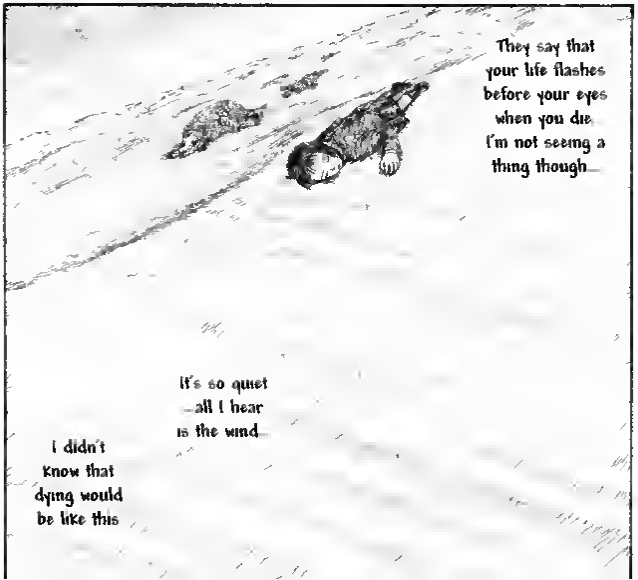
YON?!

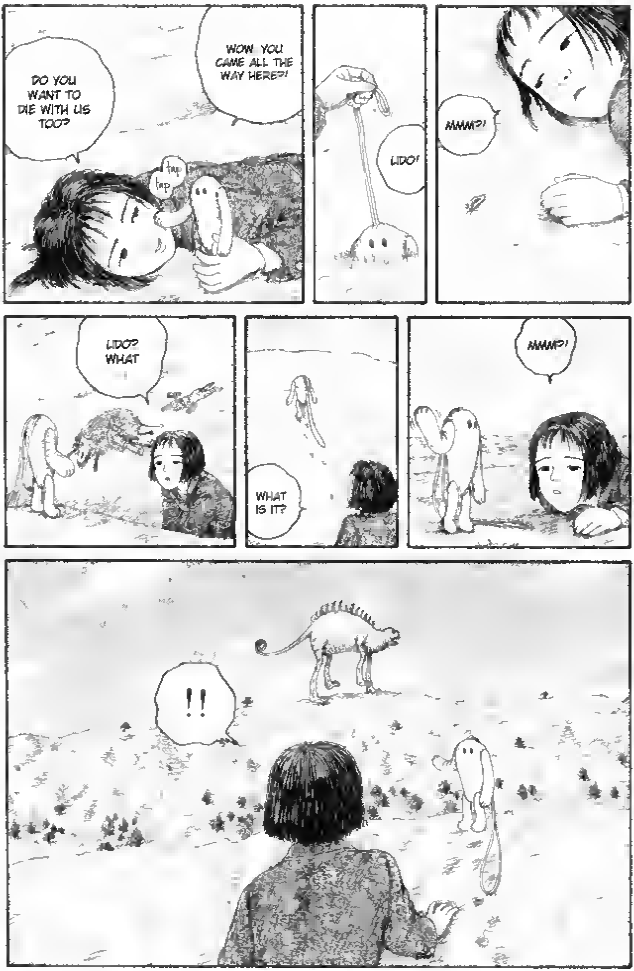

And still nothing above the horizon_
Ok dear

HUXX
HUXX

My Oh My

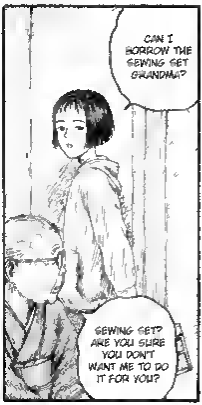
Ahh... It looks like I'm going to die here

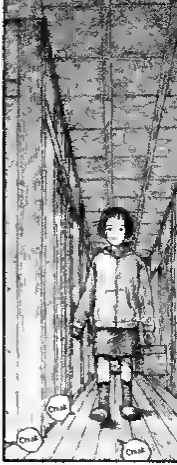

They say that your life flashes before your eyes when you die. I'm not seeing a thing though...
It's so quiet... all I hear is the wind...
I didn't know that dying would be like this


DO YOU WANT TO DIE WITH US TOO?
WOW. YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?!
hap
hap
LIDO!
MMM?!
LIDO? WHAT
WHAT IS IT?
MMM?!
!!

Hishi carried us over the hill with his last ounce of strength
thud
AND IPPO!
BROTHER!!
THERE'S A HILL! AND GREENERY TOO!
THANKS, LIDO...
YAY
?
YAH
HAHA, WE CAME BACK!
LIDO
TALK ABOUT A BACKWOODS VILLAGE!

NO, IT'S OKAY


CAN I BORROW THE SEWING SET GRANDMA?
SEWING SET? ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DO IT FOR YOU?

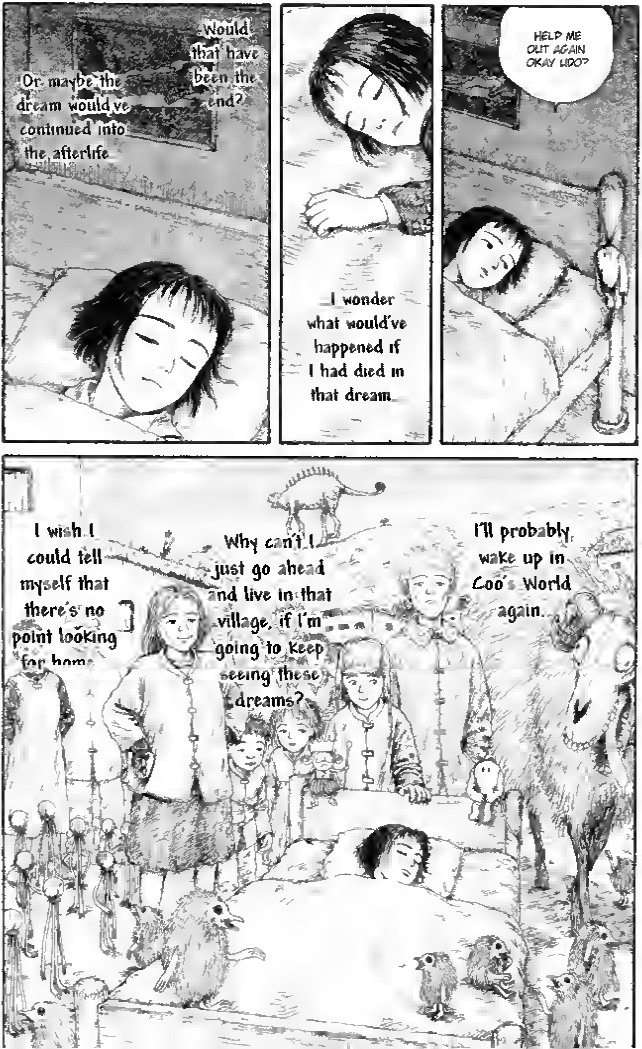

Creak
Creak
Creak

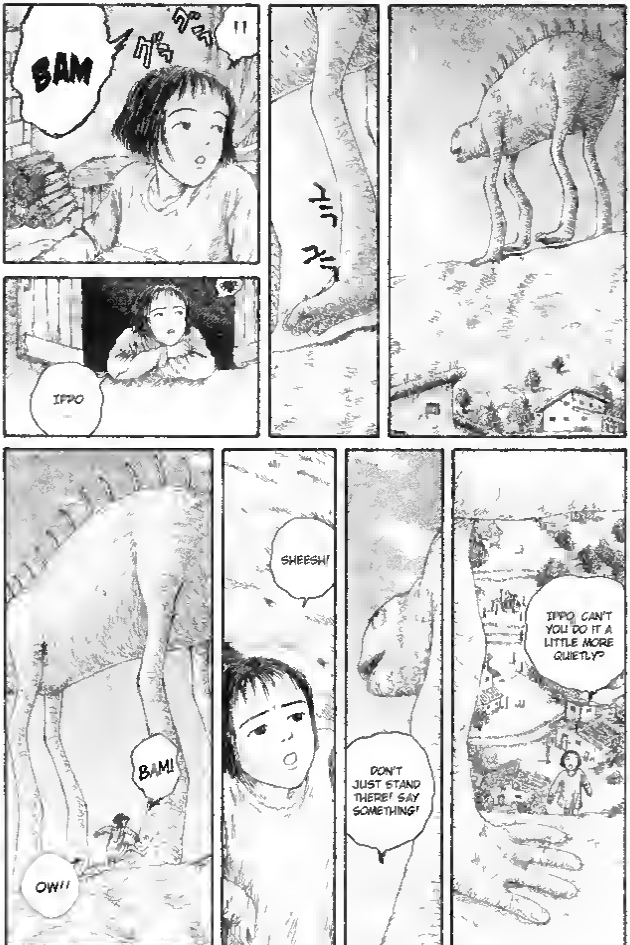
RENE! SEWING? THAT'S CERTAINLY ODD

THIS IS LIDO A TALISMAN
IT MOVED!
The lady was right! You really DID help me, Lido!
Looking at you like this, it almost feels like I've jumped straight out of the dream

OW

OKAY. THIS SHOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT


Would that have been the end?
Or maybe the dream would've continued into the afterlife
I wonder what would've happened if I had died in that dream
HELP ME OUT AGAIN OKAY UDO?
I wish I could tell myself that there's no point looking for home
Why can't I just go ahead and live in that village, if I'm going to keep seeing these dreams?
I'll probably wake up in Coo's World again.

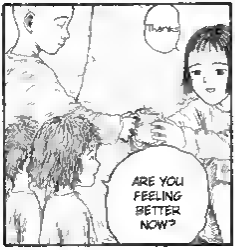

BAM
!!
IPPO
IPPO, CAN'T YOU DO IT A LITTLE MORE QUIETLY?
SHEESH!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! SAY SOMETHING!
BAM!
OW!!

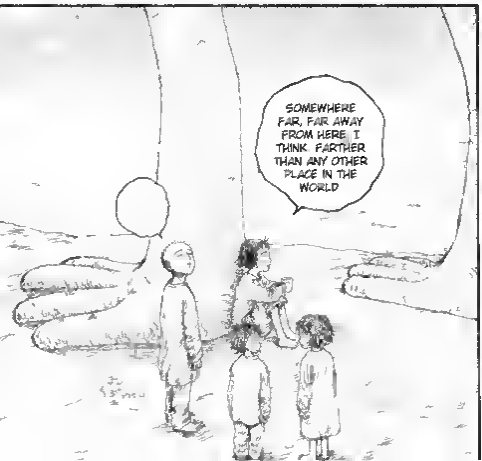
RENEEE!

I wonder how long it's been since I got lost... It looks like I'm back at the starting point again...
But... it almost feels like I've come to my REAL home...

I WONDER WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

YEAH


Thanks
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?

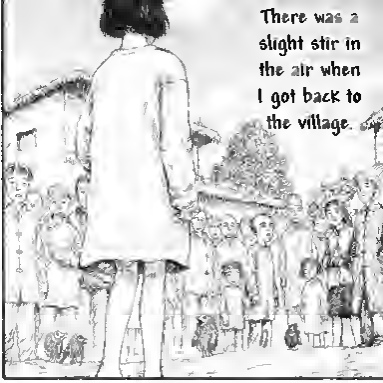

SOMEWHERE FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HERE. I THINK FARTHER THAN ANY OTHER PLACE IN THE WORLD

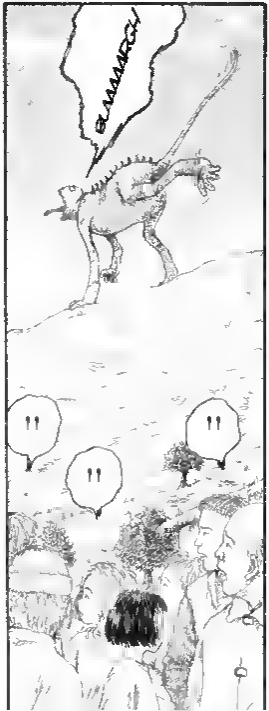
YEAH, GOOD QUESTION. I WONDER WHERE IT IS.

WRITING: APRIL 7 DAY OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY

IMPORTANT DAY?
AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DAY
YES, THE DAY I WAS BORN
SO WHERE'S MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT?!
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DAY, YOU KNOW
TAP
TAP
HEY, I'M SURE YOU'LL GET USED TO IT EVENTUALLY
HOW OLD ARE YOU ANYWAY, IPPO?!
So I guess I'm 13 now.. I bet everyone's worried about me...

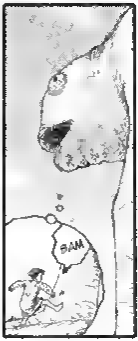
WHAT?!
RENE!, WE JUST LEARNED THAT TODAY'S A VERY IMPORTANT DAY!
WE'LL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS!
OH MY GOD, WE HAD NO IDEA


There was a slight stir in the air when I got back to the village.


EEAAAAAGGH!
!!
!!
!!

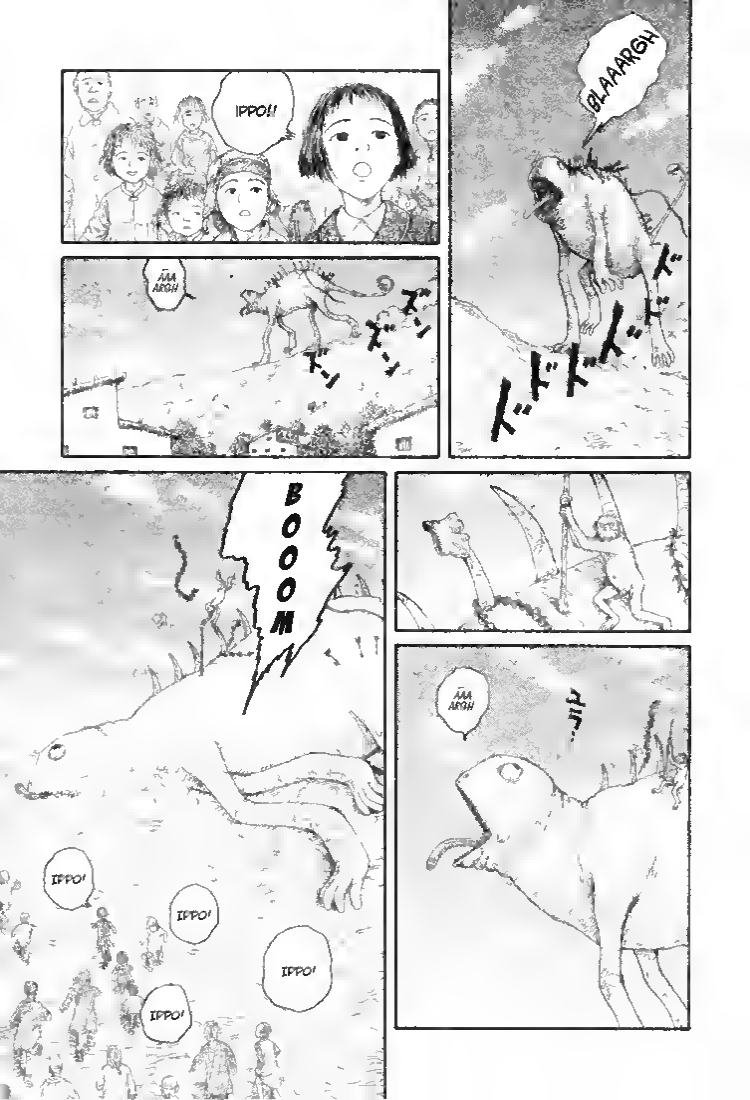
NO, IT'S NOT...
WHAT CAN WE DO?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

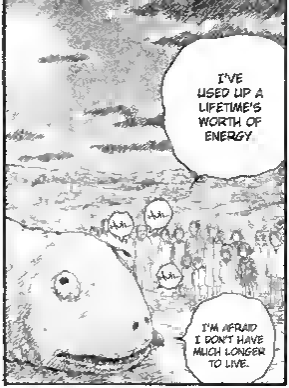
HOW COULD WE EVER OVERLOOK THIS?
DIDN'T ANYONE REALIZE IT?


BAM

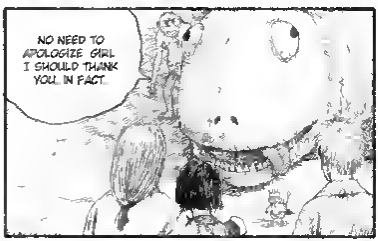
BLAAAAAOO!!
ドガ
ドガ
ドガ
ドガ
IPPO!
IPPO!
IPPO!
ドドド

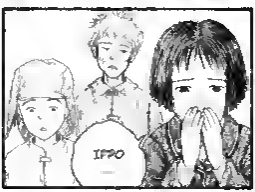
OH GEEZ, YOU STUPID LITTLE...
DO NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS OKAY?
E-BRO
EH?
WHAT?!
WE'RE DOOMED TO SLEEP IN ETERNAL SLUMBER
...but to watch the sun sink slowly behind the hills.
THE SUN WILL SET ANY MINUTE NOW. IT'S ALL OVER.
SHOO OFF
BECAUSE IF YOU DO, THEY'LL START BLAMING ME FOR BRINGING YOU HERE
BROTHER
There was nothing anyone could do for the rest of the day
GOD. WHAT HAVE I DONE? HOW WILL I EVER...

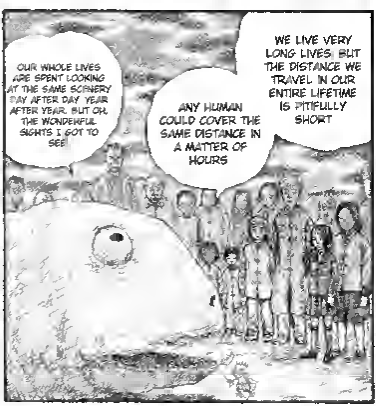

BLAARGH
ドドドドド
IPPO!!
AAA ARGH
ズン ズン ズン
BOOOM
IPPO!
IPPO!
IPPO!
IPPO!
AAA ARGH
ドン

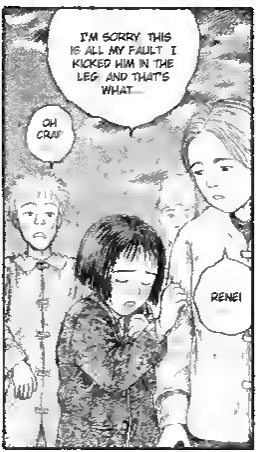

I'VE USED UP A LIFETIME'S WORTH OF ENERGY.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE.

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
IPPO
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE GIRL I SHOULD THANK YOU. IN FACT.


IPPO


OUR WHOLE LIVES ARE SPENT LOOKING AT THE SAME SCENERY DAY AFTER DAY YEAR AFTER YEAR. BUT OH, THE WONDERFUL SIGHTS I GOT TO SEE!
ANY HUMAN COULD COVER THE SAME DISTANCE IN A MATTER OF HOURS
WE LIVE VERY LONG LIVES. BUT THE DISTANCE WE TRAVEL IN OUR ENTIRE LIFETIME IS PITIFULLY SHORT


I'M SORRY THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I KICKED HIM IN THE LEG AND THAT'S WHAT...
OH CRAP
RENE!

HEY IPPO DID YOU HAPPEN TO PASS BY HER HOUSE?
IT SEEMS THAT I MUST GO NOW
I CAN'T TELL YOU ENOUGH HOW GRATEFUL I AM.
IT WAS AN EXTREMELY ENJOYABLE AND FULFILLING JOURNEY I FELT SO ALIVE!
WELL
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
TWIP
YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED THAT FIRST
WANNA EAT HIM?
YEAH LET'S EAT HIM.
GET THE KNIVES, EVERYONE
WHAT?!
Ippo traveled around the world in less than a day... and passed away after the completion of his journey.

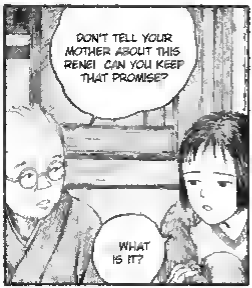
LAST SUPPER INDEED
DO YOU THINK WE'LL FINISH EATING HIM TODAY?
BETTER HURRY
SHOULD WE CURE IT?
WHAT FOR? NONE OF US WILL WAKE UP TOMORROW!
THE SUN'S GONNA SET
IPPO
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
LOOK THE SUN'S SETTING
WE'LL GO TO SLEEP TONIGHT AND WE WILL NEVER WAKE UP
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT I DID I'LL MAKE SURE TO STAY UP ALL NIGHT AND WAKE EVERYONE UP IN THE MORNING!

OH WELL I GUESS I'M IN THIS TOO
YOU'RE GONNA STAY UP WITH ME?
ta ta
I SUPPOSE THE GESTURE WAS NICE...
I'll wake everyone up...
Z...z...
IT'S ALL RIGHT IT'S ALL RIGHT
Yawn.
No! I have to stay awake!

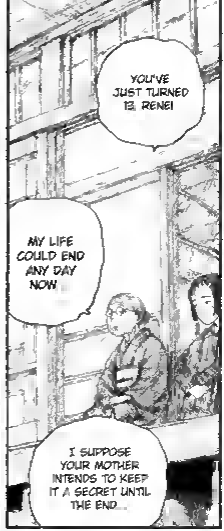
OH NO! I FELL ASL
How can I be so daft? You'd think I'd try pinching myself or something
I'm so silly why don't I realize that it's a dream?
Sigh
IT WAS A DREAM
GOD I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS EVERY MORNING
I wish I could go back NOW and tell her that it's just a dream
It's so weird I'm Renei Hayashi in the dream, but it also feels like I'm not

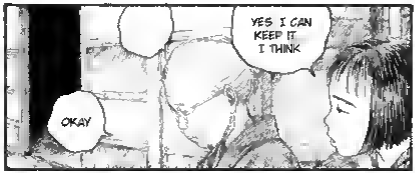
Why doesn't it ever occur to me that none of it is real?
And then it wouldn't be so bad, because I'll know then that it's just a dream regardless of what I'm going through
YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU MEAN IT MOM...
AH... YES...
LATER, MOM.
LAT...
RENE! WHAT IS THAT ?
I MADE IT YESTERDAY CUTE, ISN'T IT?
OH THIS?

YOU'RE
PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GET MAD
SURE
GRANDMA.
YES?
BESIDES YOU WEREN'T EVEN ALIVE YOURSELF UNTIL ABOUT A DOZEN YEARS AGO
IT'S ABOUT TIME I WENT AWAY TO MAKE ROOM FOR YOUNG GIRLS LIKE YOURSELF
OH BUT WE'RE ALL FATED TO DIE SOMEDAY
...YES, AND IT WON'T BE VERY LONG EITHER
GRANDMA!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE SOMEDAY TOO
OH, NOTHING
...WHAT MAKES YOU ASK SUCH A THING RENE!?
MY LIFE IS JUST ABOUT OVER
SO BOTH OF US ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE OTHER SIDE IN OUR OWN WAYS
AND YOURS HAS JUST BEGUN

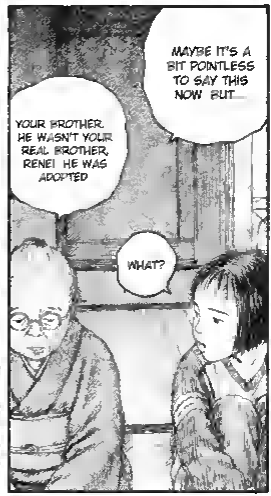

DON'T TELL YOUR MOTHER ABOUT THIS RENE! CAN YOU KEEP THAT PROMISE?
WHAT IS IT?

WHAT?!
BUT I THINK... I THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH...


YOU'VE JUST TURNED 13, RENE!
MY LIFE COULD END ANY DAY NOW...
I SUPPOSE YOUR MOTHER INTENDS TO KEEP IT A SECRET UNTIL THE END...


YES. I CAN KEEP IT. I THINK
OKAY

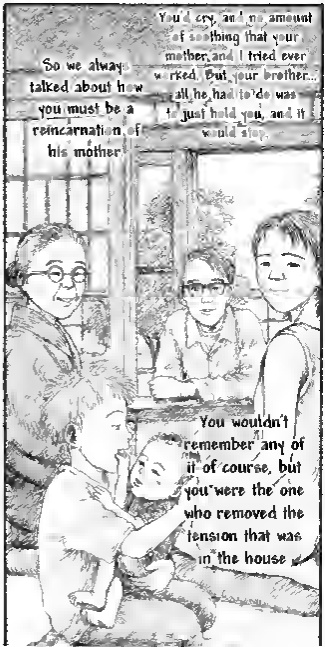
YOUR MOTHER WAS HAVING DIFFICULTIES CONCEIVING A CHILD. THE DOCTORS ALL SAID SHE WAS INFERTILE
AND THAT WAS YOUR BROTHER...
AND THEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF HERS BECAME UNABLE TO BRING UP HER SON, SO YOUR MOTHER DECIDED TO TAKE HIM IN.


MAYBE IT'S A BIT POINTLESS TO SAY THIS NOW, BUT...
YOUR BROTHER. HE WASN'T YOUR REAL BROTHER, RENE! HE WAS ADOPTED
WHAT?

Then one day, your mother took pity on the stuffed animal, and sewed a pair of eyes on to it
And that was when he started to warm up to her

He was very withdrawn. Never really opened himself up to anyone

When he first came to the house, he was clutching a stuffed animal. He'd never let go of it
And it looked EXACTLY like the one you made yesterday.
though it didn't have any eyes at the time


You'd cry, and no amount of soothing that your mother, and I tried ever worked. But your brother... all he had to do was just hold you, and it would stop.
So we always talked about how you must be a reincarnation of his mother
You wouldn't remember any of it of course, but you were the one who removed the tension that was in the house

SO THAT STUFFED ANIMAL MEANS A LOT TO HER TOO

IT MUST HAVE BEEN DISCONCERTING FOR YOUR BROTHER PARTICULARLY
HIS REAL MOTHER DIED SOON AFTER THAT AND THEN YOU WERE FINALLY CONCEIVED
SHE HAD GIVEN UP ON EVER HAVING A BABY SO SHE WAS THRILLED TO HAVE YOU BUT THE FEELINGS WERE ALWAYS MIXED
BUT YOU REALLY TOOK TO HIM, RENE!

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE HELD IT AGAINST YOU IF YOU'D KEPT THAT FROM ME
NOT AT ALL, GRANDMA!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT
Sigh
gacha
OH COME ON GRANDMA, WHAT IS IT?
I'M NOT TELLING
HMM, WELL THERE'S
GRANDMA
HMM?
HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE, LIKE YOU WERE REALLY ALIVE? EVEN IF JUST FOR A MOMENT?

MOM, IT SOUNDS REALLY CREEPY WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT
RENEEEE! GUESS WHAT I GOT FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY!
I'M GLAD I GOT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THESE THINGS, RENE!
YEAH, ME TOO!
So. He isn't my real brother.
But he always knew that I wasn't his real sister.
It really doesn't make any difference now, but
You're in junior high now. You need to learn to wake up on your own!
ZIC
ZIC
PLUT
I don't think I'll be able to get to sleep, Grandma.

Maybe that's why there was something nostalgic about meeting her...
Then that lady is ME?!
WAIT A MINUTE
So maybe that lady is his real mother...
And if I'm her— reincarna-tion...
THIS IS STUPID
WHAT AM I GOING ON ABOUT?
BAH
God, I hope the sun rises again...
You've gotta wake up, Renei...
I need to wake up ASAP!
ACK, I SHOULDN'T BE WASTING TIME LIKE THIS
I PROMISED TO WAKE EVERYONE UP!

OH NO! I FELL ASLEEP!
GYU
!!
AH
WELL I GUESS THE SUN DID RISE AFTER ALL
KYOMU
GO WAKE EVERYONE UP!
WAKE UP! BROTHER!
LOOK!
MMM?

It took the entire village a whole day to drag the new Ippo over
HEAVE HO!
HEAVE HO!
HEAVE HO!
HEAVE HO!
HEAVE HO!

HEAVE HO
HEAVE HO
HEAVE HO

GOOD JOB, RENE!
GOD I'M EXHAUSTED

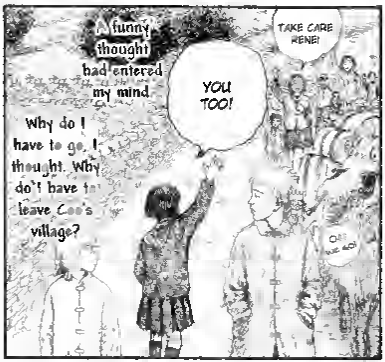
OKAY, THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH!
Oh, dear

YOU MUST BE SO TIRED YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT
ACTUALLY I DOZED OFF A BIT

HERE, HOP ON TO MY BACK
I'LL CARRY YOU DOWN TO THE VILLAGE
THANK YOU...

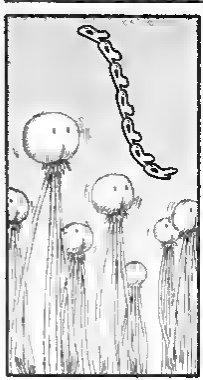
MUST BE A GOOD OMEN...
OH MY! LOOK AT THE MONOKHRUS SING! YOU DON'T SEE THAT QUITE OFTEN
YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO SLEEP, RENE!
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
RRRRRRR
I heard the alarm in my dream.
CHCK
RRRRRRR
HUH?!
WHAT
AH!

Then I have to tell him.
But
If he really doesn't realize that he's dead
And if my brother's spirit really IS stuck in the living world
But if I can set off the alarm in my dream then maybe
Then maybe I'll finally be able to realize that it's all a dream
Then it might spell an end to the dreams, and to the times I spend with my brother
But this is for the better. For me AND for him!
This IS abnormal, after all!
If I can recognize that it's a dream while I'm there
zzz
I decided to set the alarm to go off 2 hours later,
and placed it in a corner of the bedroom

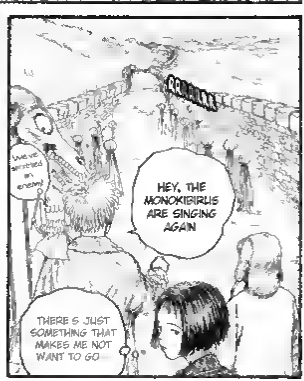

A funny thought had entered my mind.
Why do I have to go, I thought. Why don't I have to leave Coo's village?
YOU TOO!
TAKE CARE RENE!
OH! THAT ALSO

We set off on our journey again, the day after the new Ippo came to the village.
THANKS!
I MADE YOU A RIBBON

VAAH
AHH!! ME
SO LET'S TRY GOING IN THIS DIRECTION THIS TIME.
I'm lost, so it only makes sense for me to look for home, but


RRRRRRR

RRRRRRR


RRRRRRR
LIKE HE SHOWED UP IN KINSHU
HEY, THE MONOKIBIRUS ARE SINGING AGAIN
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME NOT WANT TO GO

WHAT?
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE SOME OF THEM.
Gulp!

ワアアアア
ワアアアア
ワアアアア

I'm in...

I'm in the middle of sleep!

This is...

!!

Coo's World Chapter 2 – End

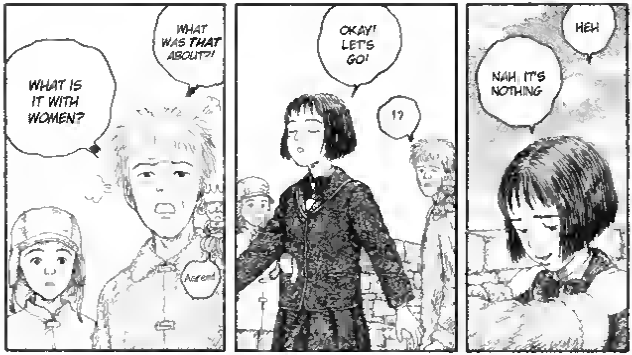
Chapter 3 - Give Me Back My Dream

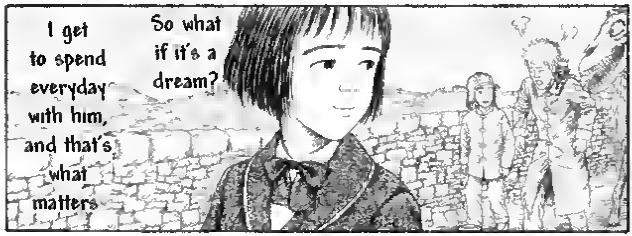
This is all a dream?! How could that be?! I can smell every scent, and feel the wind! And the colors are so vivid!

I'm in a dream So does that mean that Coo's world is a figment of my imagination?!

B_Brother_
Brother!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
My dead brother is standing here before my eyes..
WHA
BROTHER!
Thump
PLEASE TALK TO ME BROTHER!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
HEY!
I feel myself tremble at his voice
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!

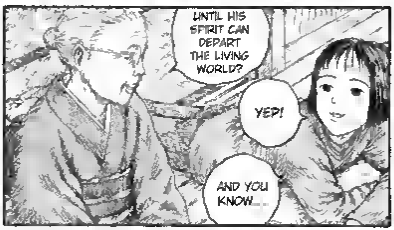
WHAT?
My name's CO!
BROTHER!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
But he seems so alive... how could fate be so cruel?!
I couldn't possibly break the news to him!
JESUS, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YEAH?
BROTHER
I have to say it to him.
COULD YOU LIKE, LET GO OF ME PLEASE?
I SAID LET GO!
BROTHER, YOU'RE
YOU'RE
He doesn't know that he's dead!
No! I can't!

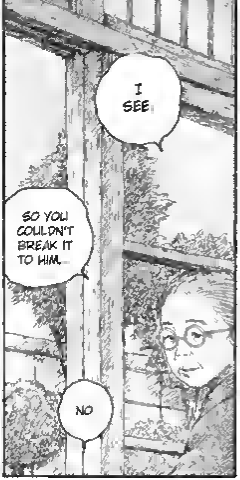

WHAT IS IT WITH WOMEN?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
Agent
OKAY! LET'S GO!
!?
HEH
NAH, IT'S NOTHING


I get to spend everyday with him, and that's what matters
So what if it's a dream?

No harm in enjoying it while I can ...
Why must I end it NOW?
These dreams may come to an end someday.

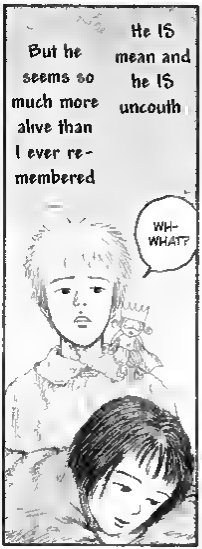
I FIGURED I'D PLAY ALONG WITH HIM FOR A BIT...


UNTIL HIS SPIRIT CAN DEPART THE LIVING WORLD?
YEP!
AND YOU KNOW...


I SEE
SO YOU COULDN'T BREAK IT TO HIM...
NO

Maybe THAT'S what my brother was really like. Maybe he wanted to be like Coo.
It's almost as if I got to meet the real him...

And I think I'm starting to like him a little...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!


But he seems so much more alive than I ever remembered
He IS mean and he IS uncouth
WH-WHAT?

Back in Coo's world, we were still in the middle of our aimless journey.

But there was one big difference. I actually knew now that this is only a dream

Who would've thought that would ever be possible?!

This is a dream. A dream! It's not real!

But... it hardly feels like one

Everything seems so different now, knowing that this is a dream

GEEZ, WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR CARE-FREE ATTITUDE RECENTLY?

WE'RE DOING ALL THIS FOR YOU, YA KNOW!

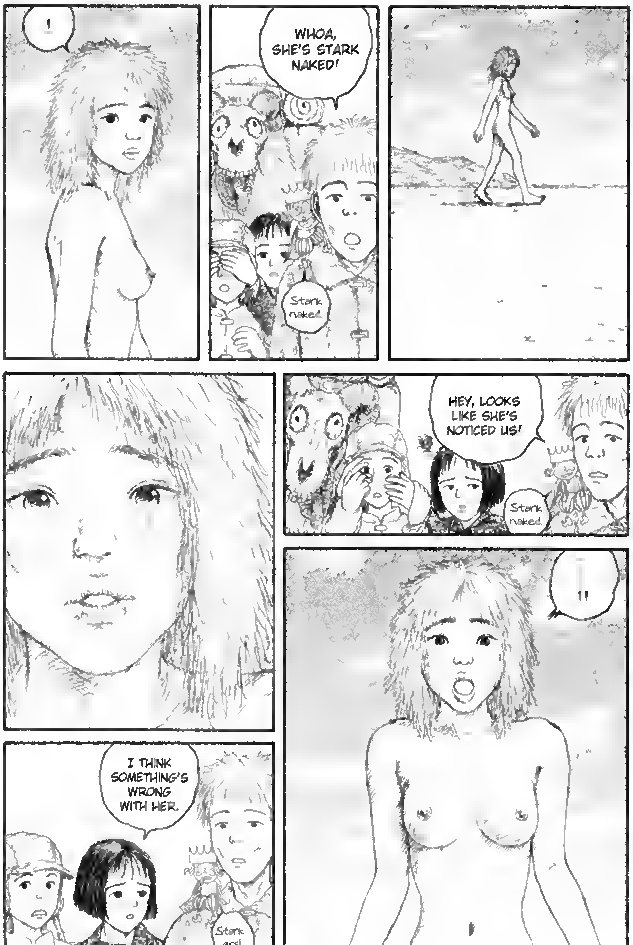
SNIFF SNIFF I WANNA GO HOME

She's pretending...

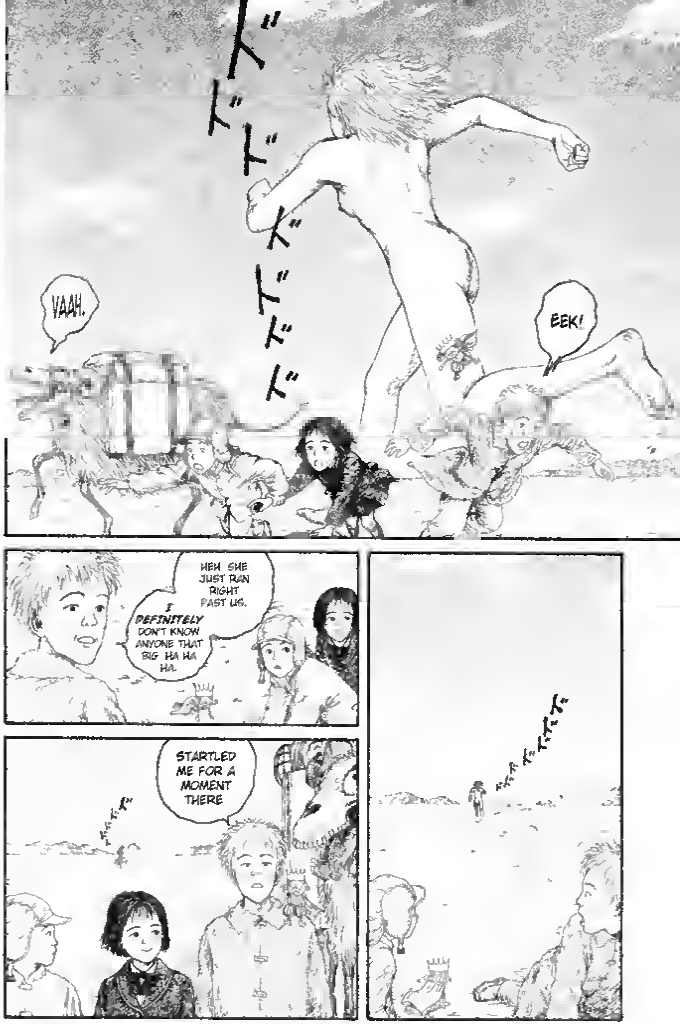
WOMEN!

SORRY

WHAT THE...?!
KYAAAA
URRRRR
sniff
OW!
!
HUH?!
HEEEELP
!?
AW
COO!
MMM?!
NOOOOOO


!
WHOA, SHE'S STARK NAKED!
Stark naked
HEY, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOTICED US!
Stark naked
!!
I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER.
Stark ers!

MMM, DO YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE ME?
BUT WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
Could be me
MAYBE IT'S YOU?
ME?! NO WAY!
WHOA, SHE'S RUNNING IN OUR DIRECTION
YOU KNOW THAT GIRL?
MAYBE IT IS ME
COO!
AA
!!
!!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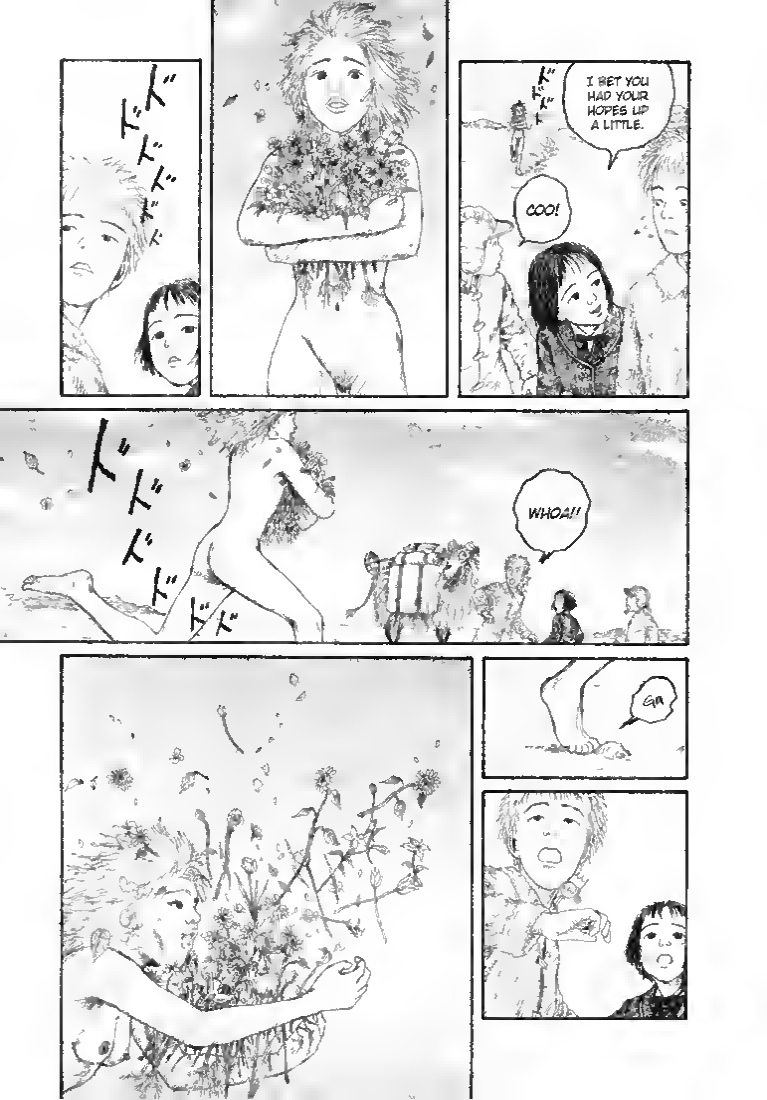
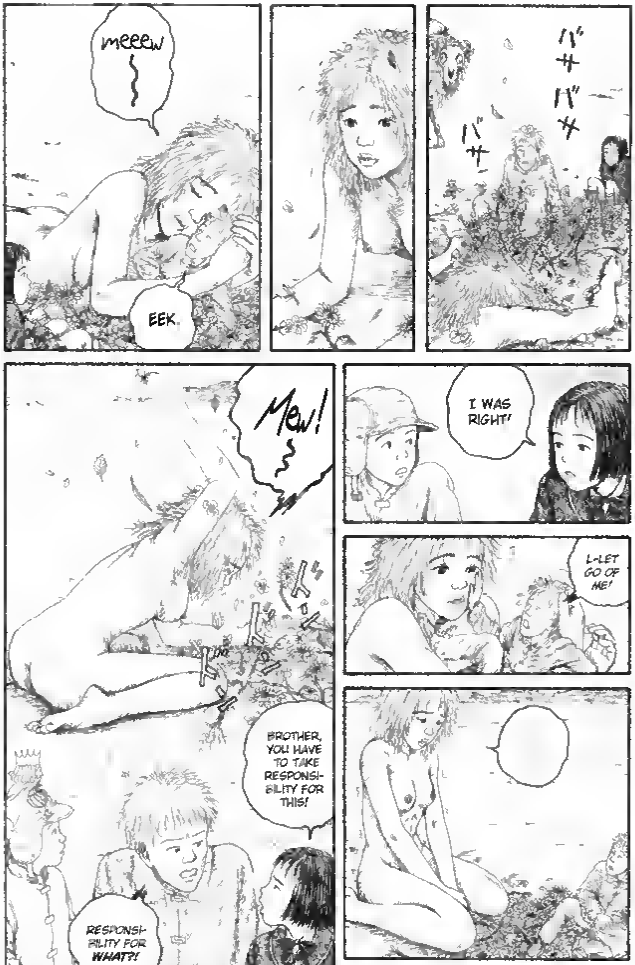
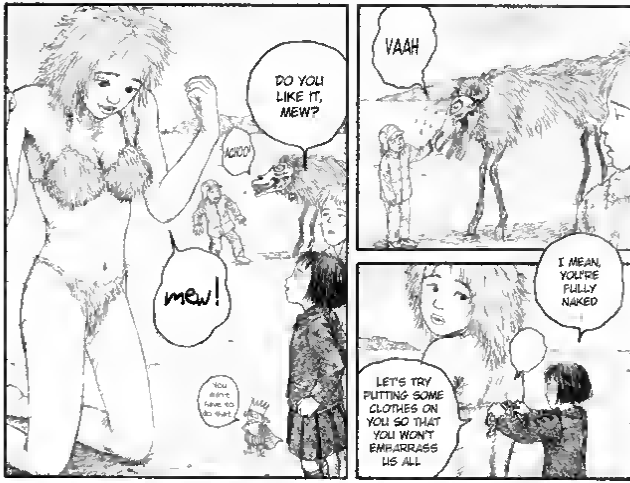
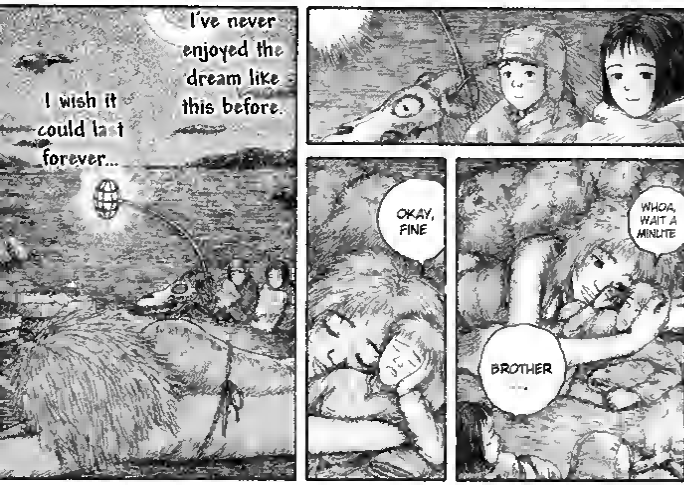

ドドドドドド
I BET YOU HAD YOUR HOPES UP A LITTLE.
COO!
ドドドドドドドドドドドド
WHOA!!
GIN


MEEEW
EEK.
バサバサ
バサー
I WAS RIGHT!
L-LET GO OF ME!
Mew!
BROTHER, YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS!
RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT?!


DO YOU LIKE IT, MEW?
VOOO!
mew!
you don't have to do that
VAAH
I MEAN, YOU'RE FULLY NAKED
LET'S TRY PUTTING SOME CLOTHES ON YOU SO THAT YOU WON'T EMBARRASS US ALL


I've never enjoyed the dream like this before.
I wish it could last forever...
OKAY, FINE
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE
BROTHER

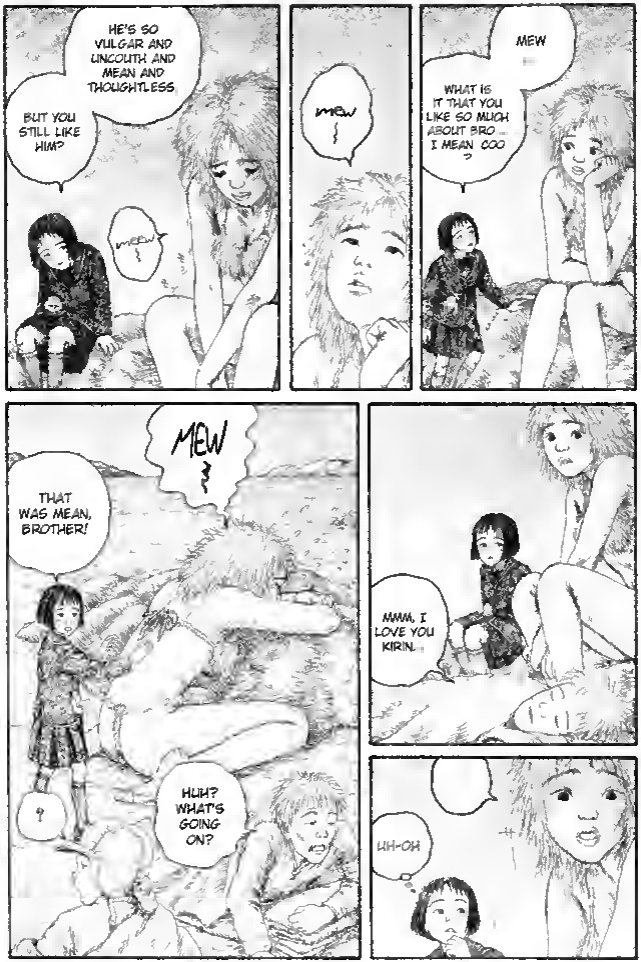
I was abashed at what I saw. I felt for a moment as if I had witnessed a forbidden secret...
!

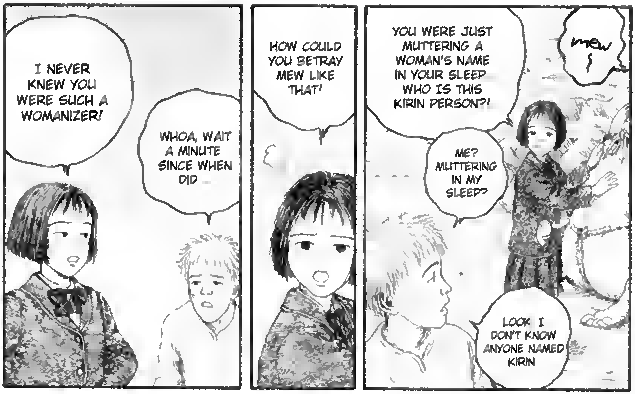
When I awoke in Coo's world next morning

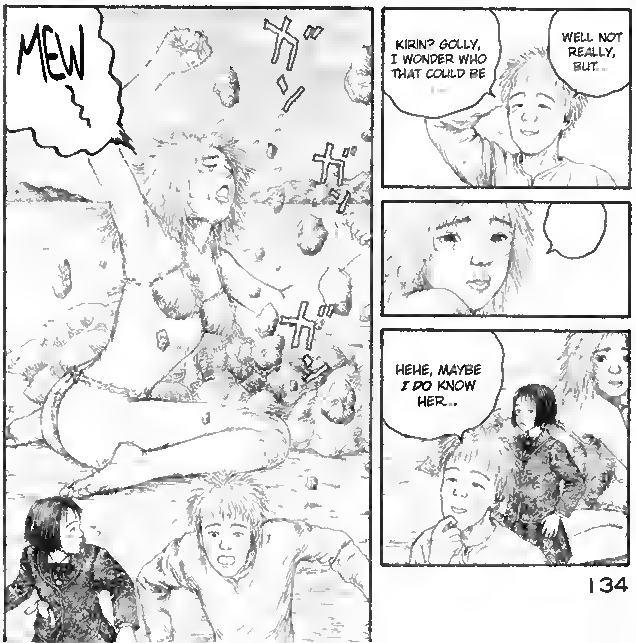
!?

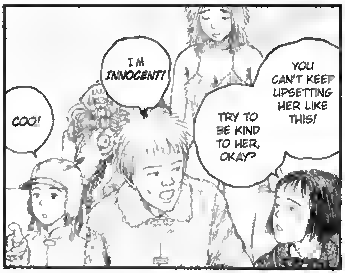
I think it may have been beyond my comprehension. I was too young to fully understand what it meant.

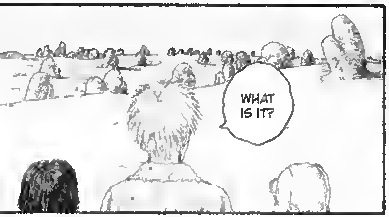
Mew was looking at my brother with such loving eyes...
I could tell from her gaze that the feelings she held for him weren't quite the same as mine.

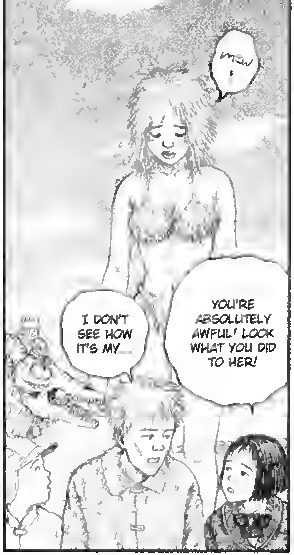

HE'S SO VULGAR AND UNCOUTH AND MEAN AND THOUGHTLESS.
BUT YOU STILL LIKE HIM?
MEW?
MEW
MEW
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU LIKE SO MUCH ABOUT BRO... I MEAN COO
MEW?
THAT WAS MEAN, BROTHER!
?
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
MMM, I LOVE YOU KIRIN.
UH-OH


I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A WOMANIZER!
WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE SINCE WHEN DID...
HOW COULD YOU BETRAY MEW LIKE THAT!
YOU WERE JUST MUTTERING A WOMAN'S NAME IN YOUR SLEEP. WHO IS THIS KIRIN PERSON?!
MEW!
ME? MUTTERING IN MY SLEEP?
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW ANYONE NAMED KIRIN

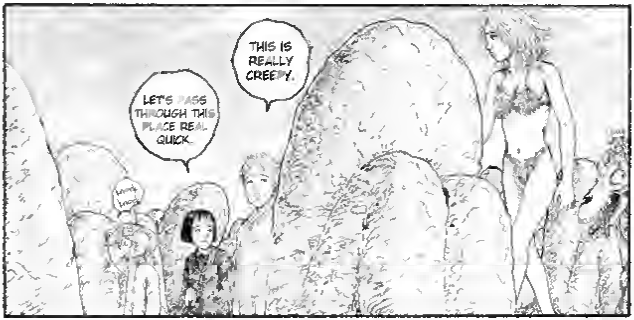

MEW
KIRIN? GOLLY, I WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE
WELL NOT REALLY, BUT...
HEHE, MAYBE I DO KNOW HER...


COO!
I'M INNOCENT!
TRY TO BE KIND TO HER, OKAY?
YOU CAN'T KEEP UPSETTING HER LIKE THIS!


WHAT IS IT?


MEW!
I DON'T SEE HOW IT'S MY...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY AWFUL! LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO HER!

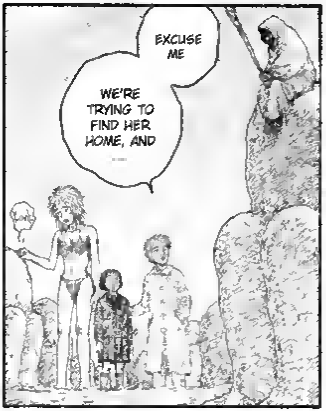
STATUES?


THIS IS REALLY CREEPY.
LET'S PASS THROUGH THIS PLACE REAL QUICK.

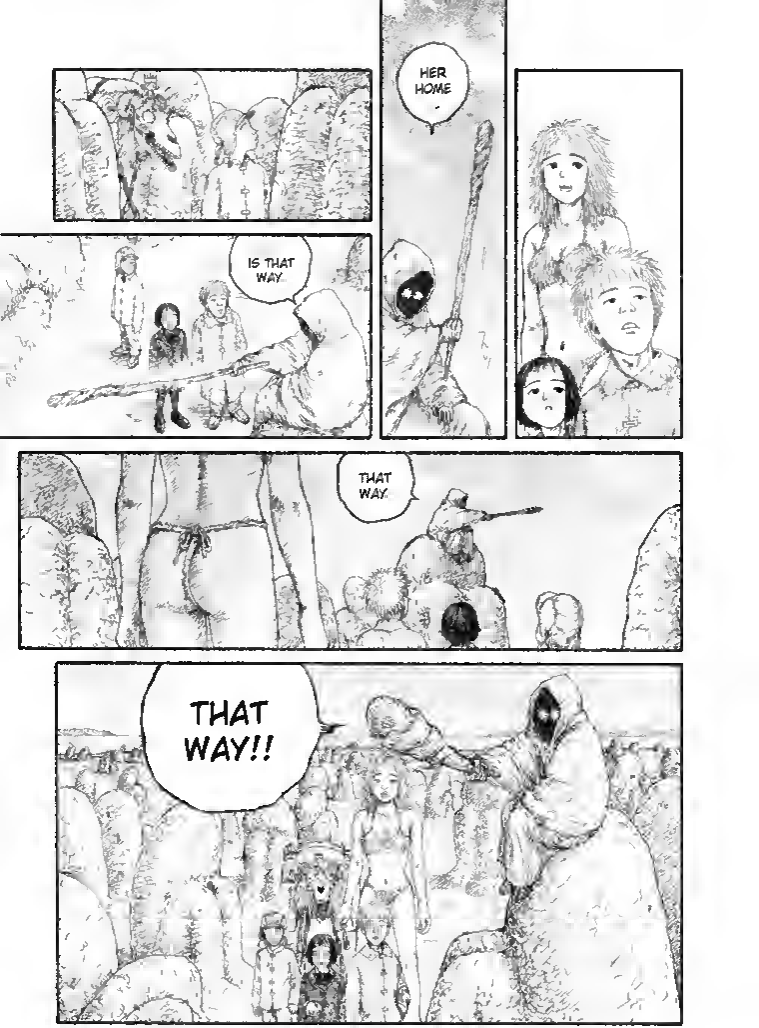
HER HOME YOU SAY?

LOOK, THERE'S SOMEONE THERE

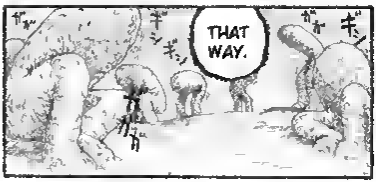
YEAH

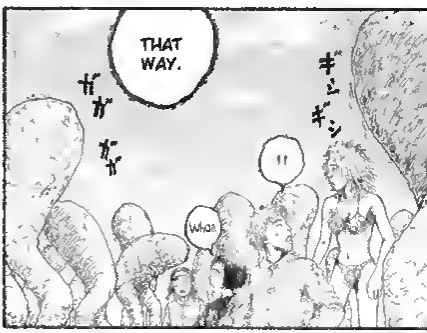

EXCUSE ME
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND HER HOME, AND

HER HOME

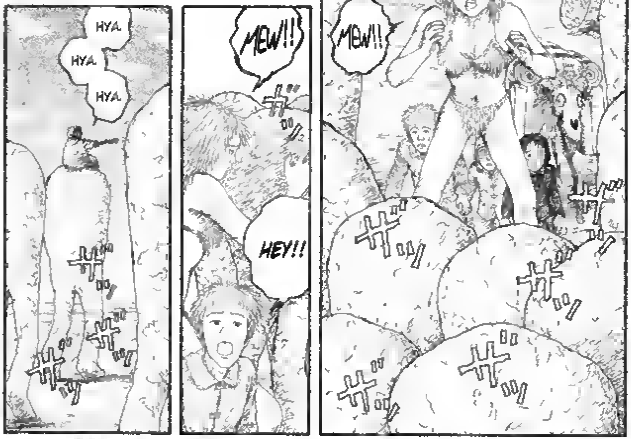

HER HOME
IS THAT WAY.
THAT WAY.
THAT WAY!!

YIKES.

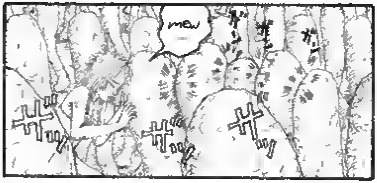

THAT WAY.

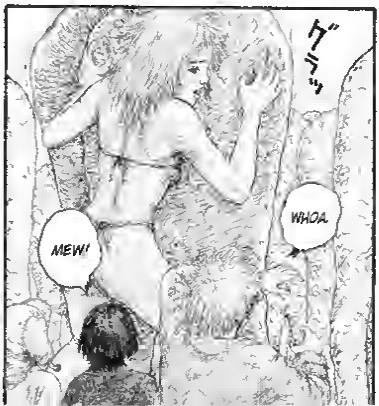

THAT WAY.
!!
WHOA

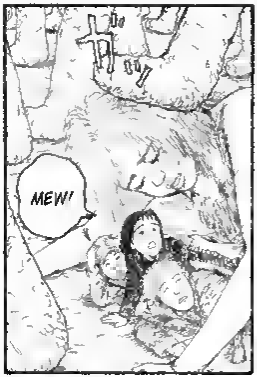
THEY'RE HEADING FOR US!!

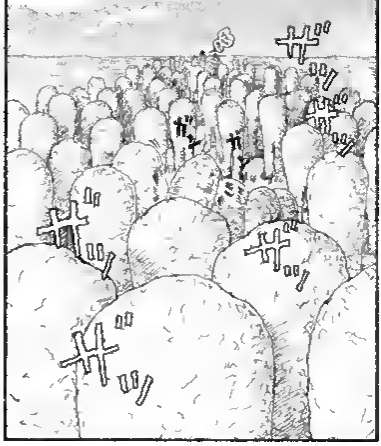

HYA.
HYA.
HYA.
MEW!!!
HEY!!
MEW!!

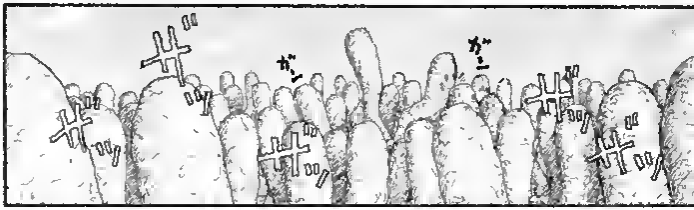
ガン
ズッ

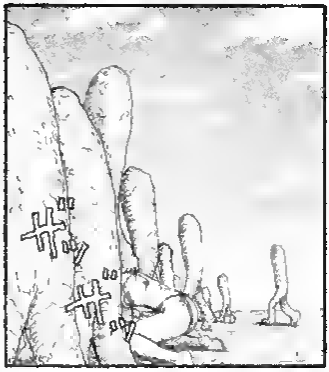

mew
ガン


グラッ
WHOA
MEW!


MEW!





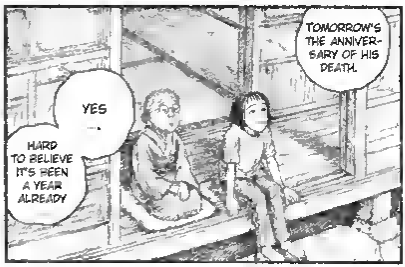


MEW?
MEW!
ARE THEY GONE?
BROTHER! WHAT ABOUT MEW?!
MEW!
MAN, THAT WAS CLOSE
MEW!
This is just so ...
I can't believe him. Is he really the brother I know...?

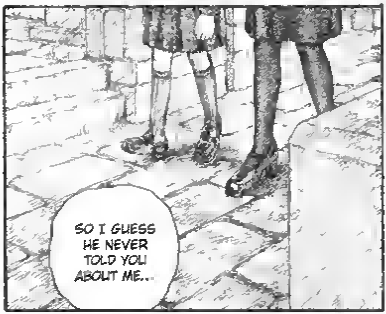
I WONDER IF HE HAD RELATIONSHIP ISSUES IN REAL LIFE TOO...
WELL, HE WAS A GROWN MAN, SO..
YEAH

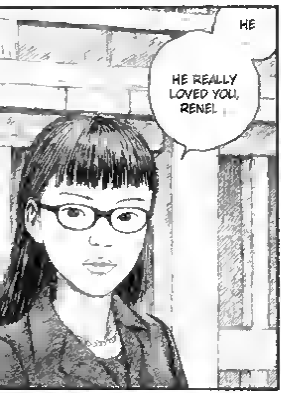
GOD, I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM LIKE THAT
IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK

I WAS DISGUSTED!
THAT'S TERRIBLE.
IT'S DESPICABLE!


TOMORROW'S THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH.
YES...
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY

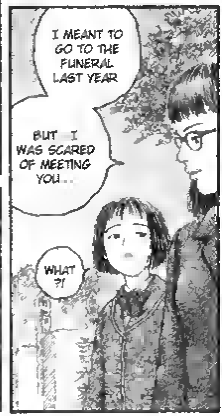
PLEASE COME ON THROUGH

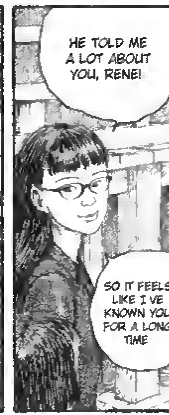

SO I GUESS HE NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT ME...


HE
HE REALLY LOVED YOU, RENE!

TO KNOW ABOUT ME
MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT YOU!
WHAT ...?

YEAH, SAME FOR ME

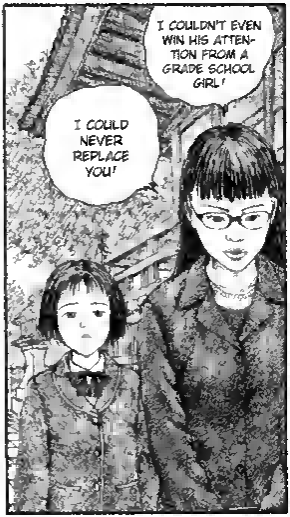

I MEANT TO GO TO THE FUNERAL LAST YEAR
BUT I WAS SCARED OF MEETING YOU...
WHAT ?!


HE TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU, RENE!
SO IT FEELS LIKE I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME

B... BUT...
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE... YOU'RE HIS SISTER.
AND YOU WERE STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNTIL A FEW WEEKS AGO...

NO!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!!

HUH?!
HE REALLY LOVED YOU! HE WANTED YOU!
I COULD TELL!


I COULDN'T EVEN WIN HIS ATTENTION FROM A GRADE SCHOOL GIRL!
I COULD NEVER REPLACE YOU!

IT'S PEDOPHILIA ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT. IT'S WRONG...

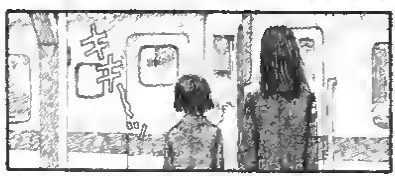
Do you have any idea how often I'd hear him say your name in his sleep?! I never told him about it though
But what can I say? That's how it was!
RENE!

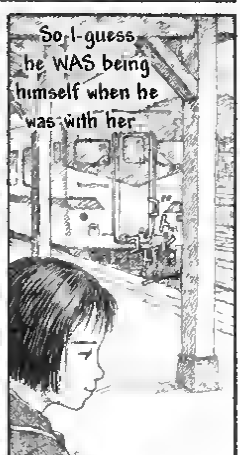
He tried to forget you... or maybe he knew he'd never be able to.
He tried hard to love me. And the harder he tried, the more painful it became for me!
I HATED YOU!
I WAS JEALOUS!
I WAS BEING A COWARD
I WISH I HAD COME SOONER!
I THINK I MIGHT BE ABLE TO LIKE YOU... JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER.
BUT... I'M GLAD I WORKED UP THE COURAGE TO COME SEE YOU TODAY

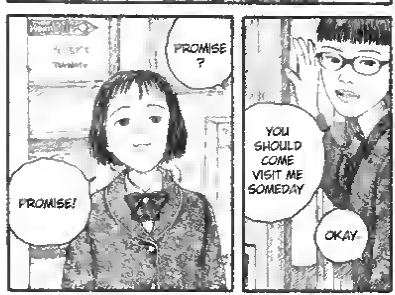
HE WAS UNRELIABLE AND BOORISH AND UNCOUTH AND CHILDISH ... HE WAS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING MAN, TO BE QUITE FRANK.
WELL... I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...

SO WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

I GUESS IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT ME TOO, THAT I'D FALL FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
WHEN HE WAS KIND, HE WAS REALLY KIND
I SEE... BUT YOU STILL LOVED HIM...

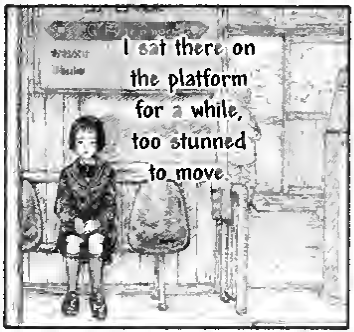


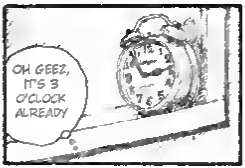

So I guess he WAS being himself when he was with her


PROMISE?
PROMISE!
YOU SHOULD COME VISIT ME SOMEDAY
OKAY

...HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
...KIRIN?
DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME I'LL BE WAITING
Kinko Kumura
3-18 Segawa
Setagaya-ku,
Tokyo
I HEARD HIM SAY YOUR NAME IN HIS SLEEP

Ohuke
I couldn't think at all...
My mind was in a daze


I sat there on the platform for a while, too stunned to move

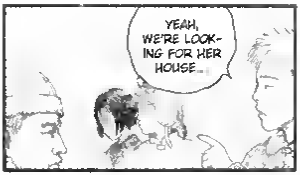

OH GEEZ, IT'S 3 O'CLOCK ALREADY

GOD I NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP...

But I was afraid of falling asleep that night
I was afraid of meeting him...

I'm sure there were all sorts of things swirling around in my head.
But they were too complex for my mind to fully take in. I had just turned 13, and I was far too young...

How could I face him, knowing what I know now...?
HEY, WAKE UP.
LET'S GET GOING!
Um
COME ON, MOVE IT
!
Brother!!
?
Right, this is Coo's world...
The thick mist was a blessing.
I don't think I could bear to meet his gaze right now
KEEP CLOSE OKAY?


YEAH, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HER HOUSE...

We ran into someone amidst the deep fog

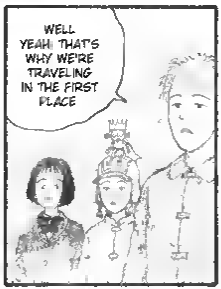
HMM WELL I'M THE GUARDIAN OF THE FOREST OF HAGU OVER THERE...

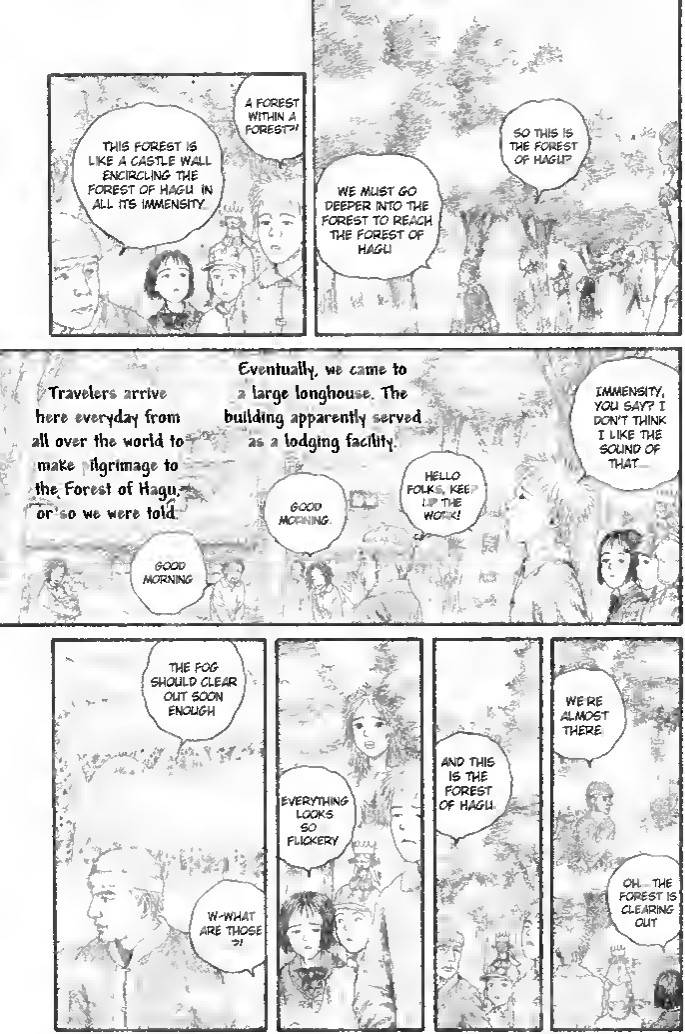
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED TO THAT YOU SHOULD TRAVEL THROUGH SUCH THICK MIST?

BUT IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT? FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART?
YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THERE!
YES YOU WILL!

THIS SHALL BE YOUR FINAL DESTINATION.
YEAH, WHY NOT LET'S FOLLOW HIM.

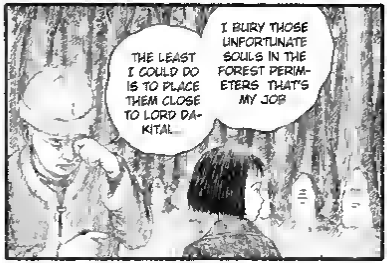
I SEE, I SEE.
FOLLOW ME THEN I'LL TAKE YOU THERE


WELL YEAH THAT'S WHY WE'RE TRAVELING IN THE FIRST PLACE


A FOREST WITHIN A FOREST?!
THIS FOREST IS LIKE A CASTLE WALL ENCIRCLING THE FOREST OF HAGU IN ALL ITS IMMENSITY.
SO THIS IS THE FOREST OF HAGU?
WE MUST GO DEEPER INTO THE FOREST TO REACH THE FOREST OF HAGU.
Travelers arrive here everyday from all over the world to make pilgrimage to the Forest of Hagu, or so we were told.
Eventually, we came to a large longhouse. The building apparently served as a lodging facility.
IMMENSITY, YOU SAY? I DON'T THINK I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT...
HELLO FOLKS, KEEP UP THE WORK!
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING
THE FOG SHOULD CLEAR OUT SOON ENOUGH
W-WHAT ARE THOSE ?!
EVERYTHING LOOKS SO FLICKERY
AND THIS IS THE FOREST OF HAGU.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
OH... THE FOREST IS CLEARING OUT

LORD DAKITAI OF THE FOREST OF HAGU!
LORD DAKITAI?
YIKES
And I'm Kind
THIS IS WHERE THOSE WHO HAVE TIRED OF LIFE. THOSE WHO HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THE MATERIAL WORLD GATHER...
CREEPY
VAAH
TO FIND THE ONE AND ONLY LORD DAKITAI THAT MATCHES THEM

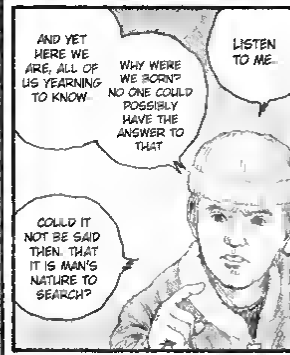
BUT WHAT IF YOU CAN'T FIND THE PERFECT MATCH...?


I BURY THOSE UNFORTUNATE SOULS IN THE FOREST PERIMETERS. THAT'S MY JOB.
THE LEAST I COULD DO IS TO PLACE THEM CLOSE TO LORD DAKITAI...

And when their bodies coalesce with Lord DaKitai, it is then that they attain eternal bliss.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SEARCH IS FOR, LORD DAKITAI WILL BE YOUR FINAL DESTINATION
IT IS YOUR UNION WITH LORD DAKITAI THAT WILL BRING YOU THE FULFILLMENT THAT YOU SEEK

HEY MAN, WE'RE LOOKING FOR HER HOUSE AND THIS ISN'T...

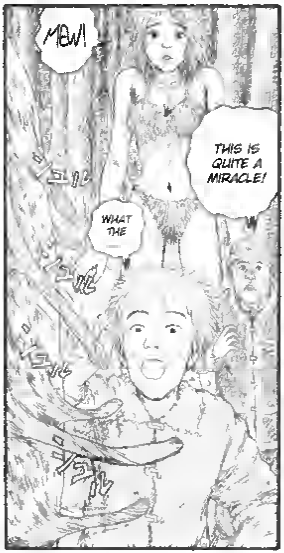

LISTEN TO ME.
WHY WERE WE BORN? NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT
AND YET HERE WE ARE, ALL OF US YEARNING TO KNOW.
COULD IT NOT BE SAID THEN, THAT IT IS MAN'S NATURE TO SEARCH?

HEY COME ON, LET'S GO!

AND YOUR SPIRIT WILL BE HEALED ETERNALLY!
OH DEAR ...
YAAH

YIKES

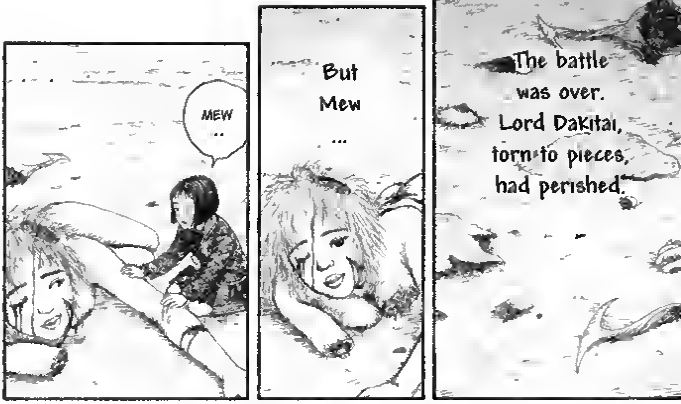
MEW!
WHA- WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!


MEW!
THIS IS QUITE A MIRACLE!
WHAT THE —

WHO WOULD DO SUCH A...
LOOK HOW UPSET LORD DAKITAI IS!!
ドーン
ドーン
GRR
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS!
HOW DARE YOU DESECRATE LORD DAKITAI!
MEW!
THIS MISCREANT REFUSED TO COALESCE WITH LORD DAKITAI!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WHAT IS IT LORD GUARDIAN?
IT'S HIM!!
We ran as fast as we could, as we heard the clamor of outraged voices behind us...

THIS IS YOUR FAULT.
YIKES!
I THINK WE'VE LOST THEM
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL COME.
COO!
MEW!
MEW!
RUN, MEW!

MEW!!
It was a fierce battle!


MEW ...
But Mew ...
The battle was over. Lord Dakitai, torn to pieces, had perished.

ドン!

mew
ﾊｰﾊｰﾊｰ

EEK
mew

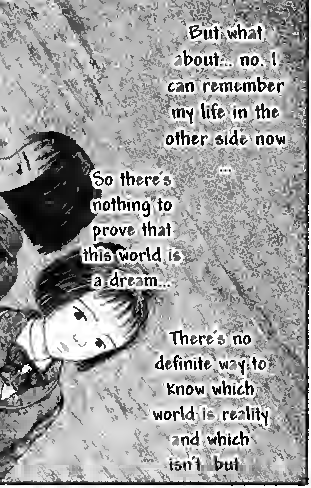
m

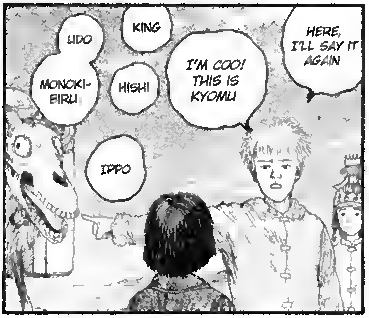
SHE FOUGHT WITH HER LIFE TRYING TO PROTECT YOU!!
AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?! HOW CAN YOU BE SO HEARTLESS! SURE THIS IS A DREAM, BUT
OH MAN, I THOUGHT FOR SURE I'D DIE
!
BROTHER!
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?!
AH . . .
RRR
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
AH.

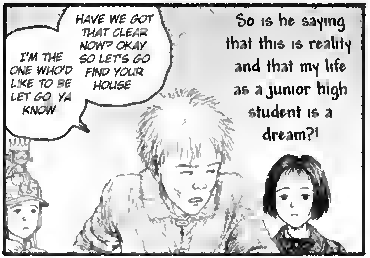
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
BROTHER... THIS WORLD WE'RE NOW IN...
IS A DREAM IT'S ALL A PART OF MY IMAGINATION

The dreams have come to an end...
YOU'RE
RRRR
BROTHER, YOU'RE.
It's over ...
RRR
RRR
Goodbye, Brother!
RRR
YOU'RE DEAD, BROTHER! YOU NO LONGER EXIST!
RRR
Please rest in peace, Brother...
ARARA
GIVE ME BACK MY DREAMS!
PLEASE LET ME GO, BROTHER!
ARARA

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?!
HEY
YOU BARGE INTO MY LIFE FROM NOWHERE AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME I'M DEAD?
DON'T KILL ME ALL OF A SUDDEN, OKAY?
LOOK, I THINK YOU'RE CONFUSING DREAMS WITH REALITY I SUPPOSE I M YOUR BROTHER IN YOUR DREAM, AND KYOHEI IS RYOTA, RIGHT?
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME SAY THIS? GET SOME SENSE INTO THAT HEAD FOR CRYING OUT LOUD
TAP TAP
MY NAME IS OOO, AND I'M NOT YOUR BROTHER! DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

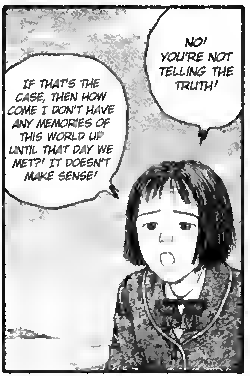

But what about... no. I can remember my life in the other side now ...
So there's nothing to prove that this world is a dream...
There's no definite way to know which world is reality and which isn't. But

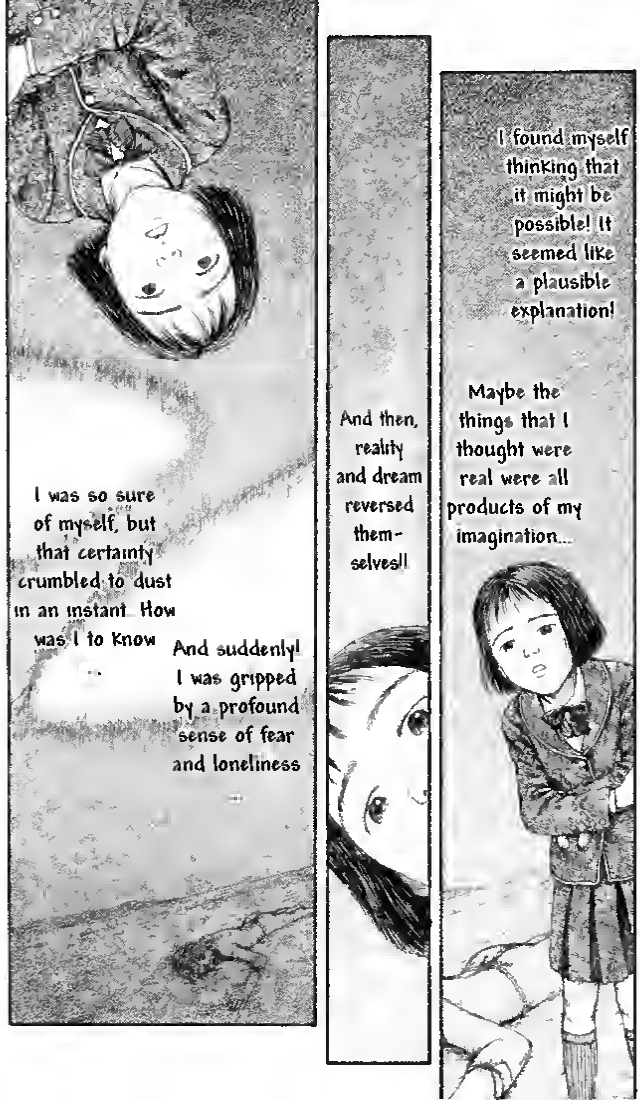

LIDO
KING
MONOKI-EIRU
HISHI
I'M COO! THIS IS KYOMU
HERE, I'LL SAY IT AGAIN
IPPO

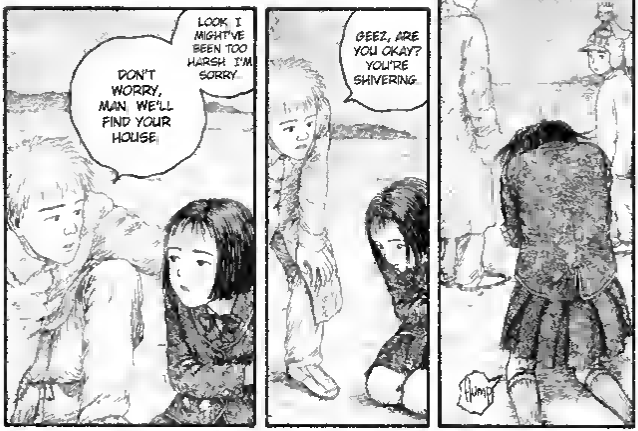

I'M THE ONE WHO'D LIKE TO BE LET GO YA KNOW
HAVE WE GOT THAT CLEAR NOW? OKAY SO LET'S GO FIND YOUR HOUSE
So is he saying that this is reality and that my life as a junior high student is a dream?!

AND YOU WERE SO SHOCKED YOU FORGOT IT ALL
MAYBE YOUR PARENTS ABANDONED YOU OR SOMETHING

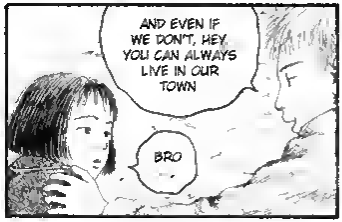
AMNESIA, MAYBE? IT HAPPENS, DOESN'T IT?
ER, WELL THAT'S

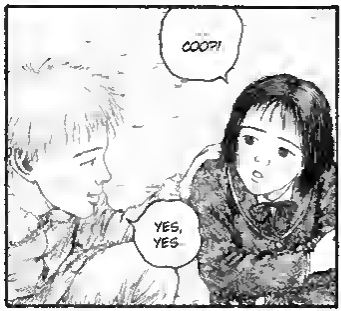

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN HOW COME I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THIS WORLD UP UNTIL THAT DAY WE MET?! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
NO! YOU'RE NOT TELLING THE TRUTH!


I was so sure of myself, but that certainty crumbled to dust in an instant. How was I to know...
And suddenly! I was gripped by a profound sense of fear and loneliness
And then, reality and dream reversed themselves!!
I found myself thinking that it might be possible! It seemed like a plausible explanation!
Maybe the things that I thought were real were all products of my imagination...


LOOK, I MIGHT'VE BEEN TOO HARSH. I'M SORRY.
DON'T WORRY, MAN. WE'LL FIND YOUR HOUSE.
GEEZ, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE SHIVERING.
HUMP

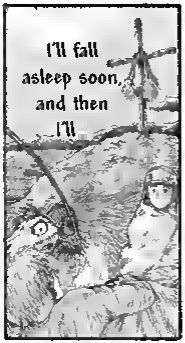
HELP ME, COO
MY BODY WON'T STOP SHIVERING
PLEASE HOLD ME.


AND EVEN IF WE DON'T, HEY, YOU CAN ALWAYS LIVE IN OUR TOWN
BRO

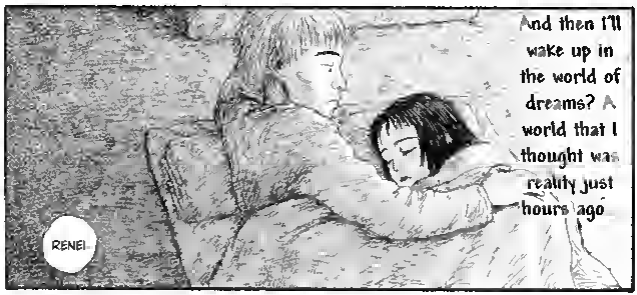

COO?!
YES, YES.

PLEASE LET ME SLEEP BY YOUR SIDE, JUST FOR TONIGHT I'M SO SCARED

COO.


I'll fall asleep soon, and then I'll

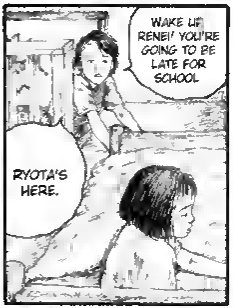
Coo treated me very gently that night, a side of him I'd never seen before...
I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...


And then I'll wake up in the world of dreams? A world that I thought was really just hours ago
RENEI

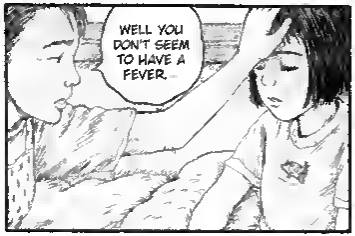
RENE!!

ARE YOU... ARE YOU MY REAL MOM?
HUH?!
Is this a dream? Am I finally starting to realize that this isn't real?

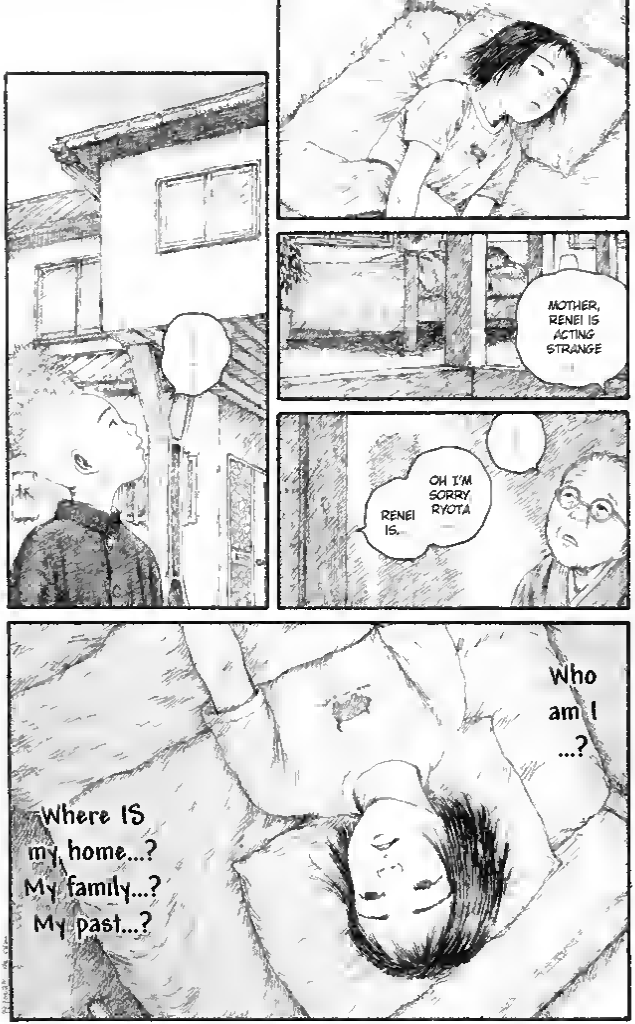
M-MOM...?
OH, STOP ACTING STUPID


WAKE UP, RENE!! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL
RYOTA'S HERE.

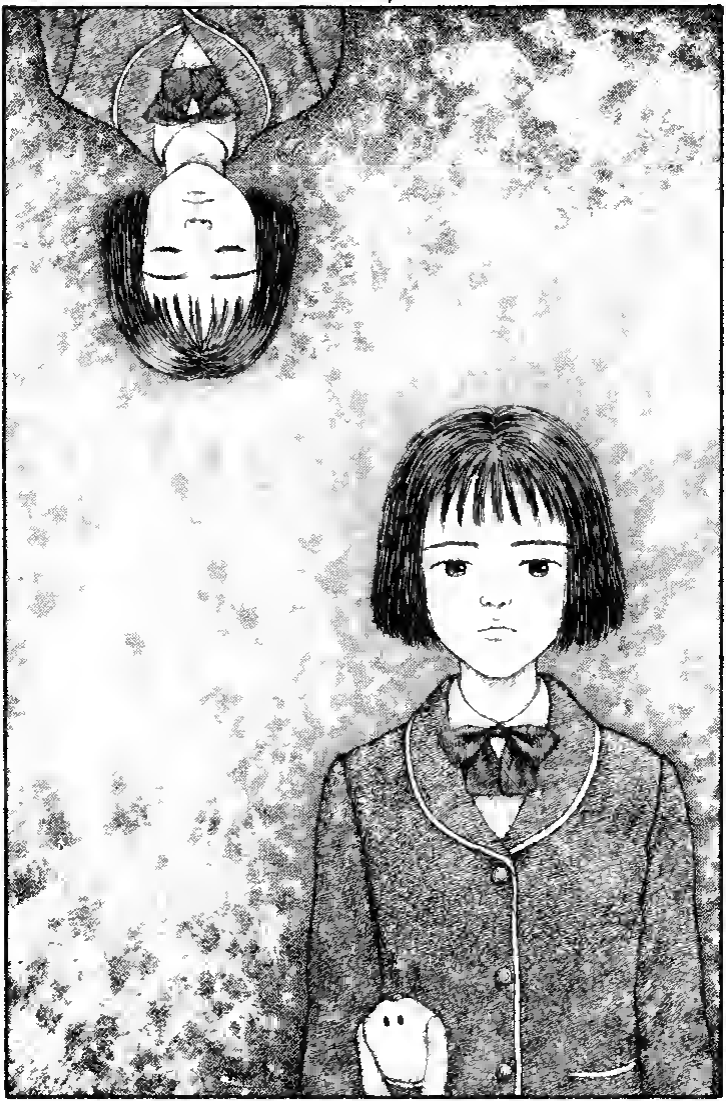
MOM, I... I HAVE A HEADACHE. I DON'T THINK I CAN GO TO SCHOOL TODAY
WHAT?!

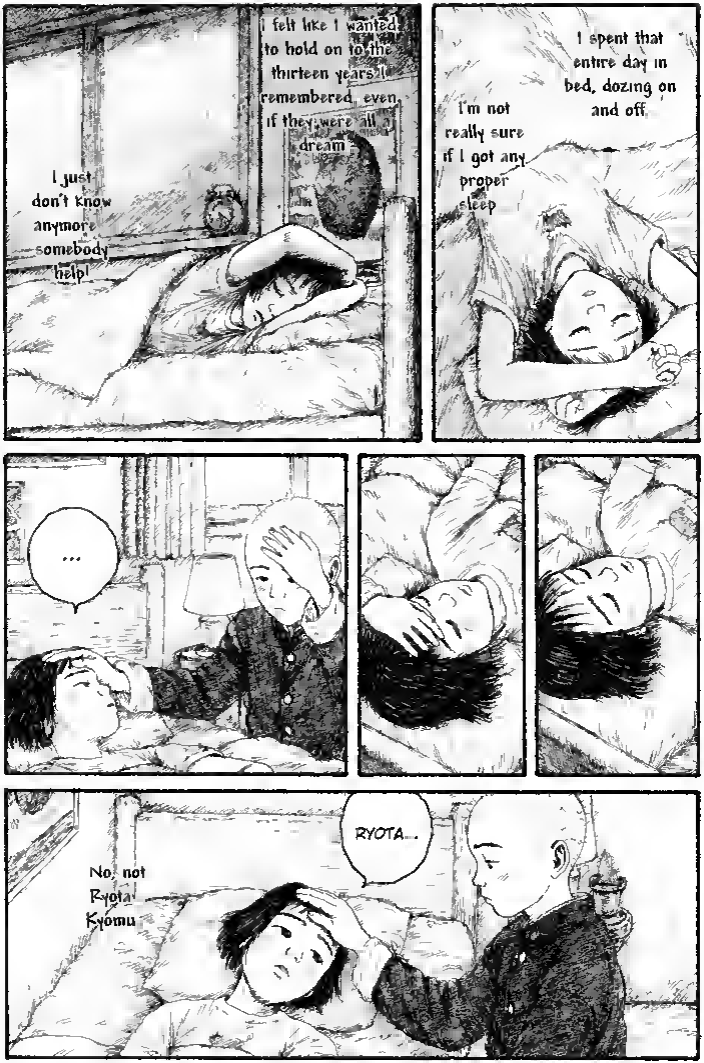

WELL YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER.

That picture... this room... these are all products of my dreams? None of this is real?!

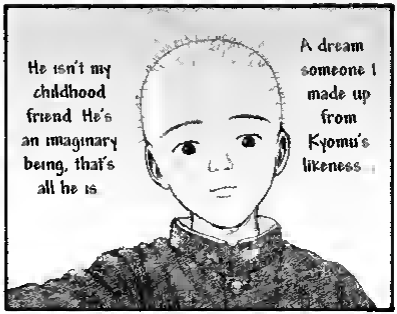


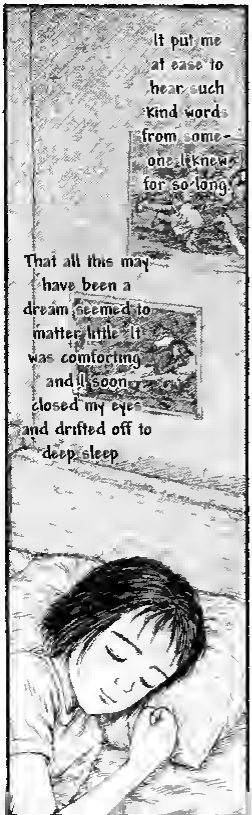
Coo's World Chapter 3 - End




I just don't know anymore somebody help!
I felt like I wanted to hold on to the thirteen years I remembered, even if they were all a dream
I'm not really sure if I got any proper sleep
I spent that entire day in bed, dozing on and off
...
RYOTA...
No, not Ryota! Kyomu

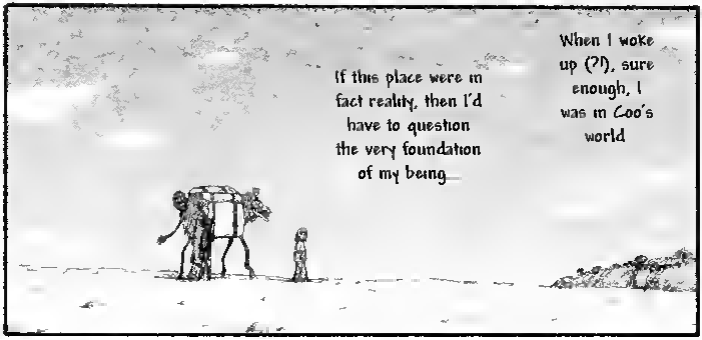
D... DON'T WORRY
I'LL... I'LL HELP YOU
I'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
SO YOU CAN SLEEP IN PEACE, RENEI.

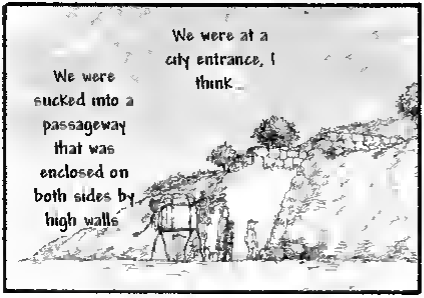

He isn't my childhood friend. He's an imaginary being, that's all he is.
A dream someone I made up from Kyomu's likeness...

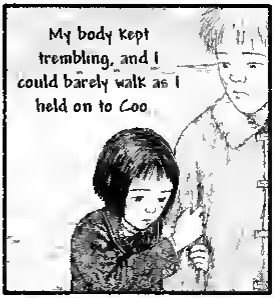

It put me at ease to hear such kind words from someone I knew for so long.
That all this may have been a dream seemed to matter little. It was comforting, and I soon closed my eyes and drifted off to deep sleep.

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME...
THAT I HEARD YOU SPEAK IN FULL SENTENCES LIKE THAT.

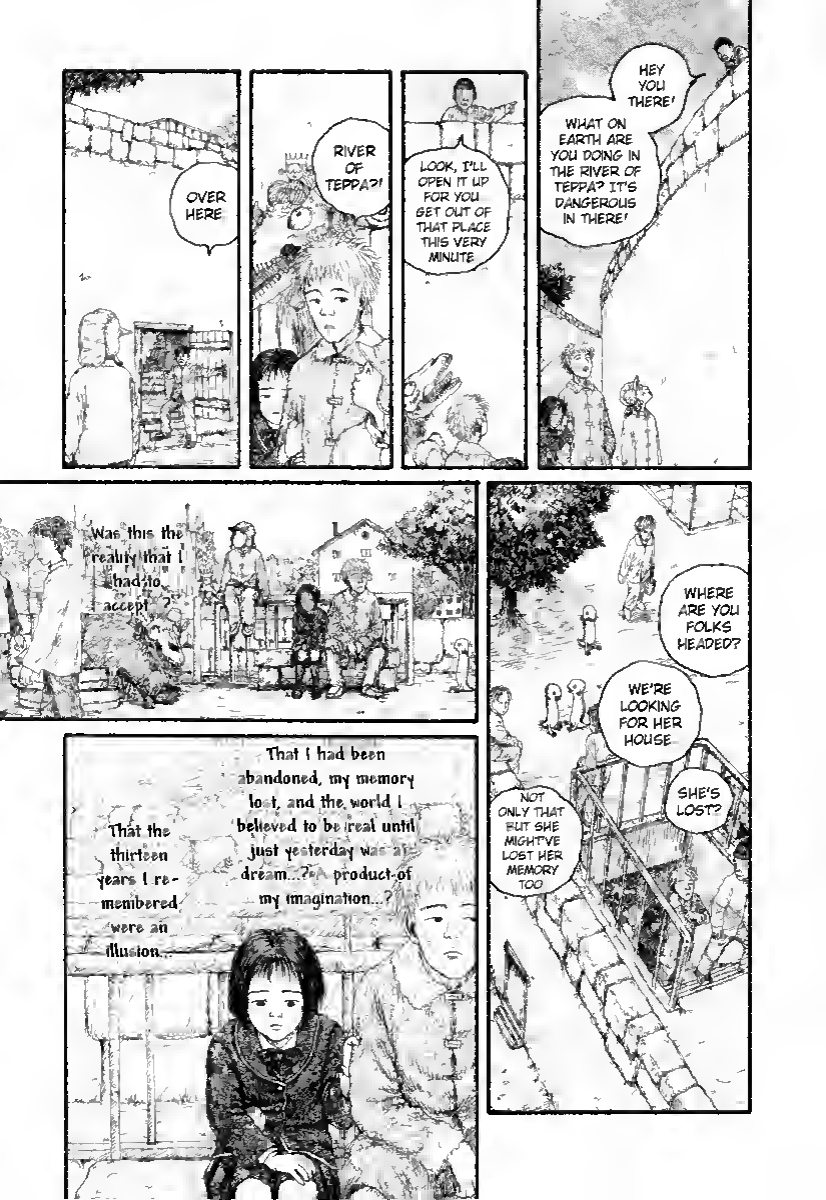
RYOTA... COULD YOU STAY HERE WITH ME FOR A WHILE?


If this place were in fact reality, then I'd have to question the very foundation of my being
When I woke up (?), sure enough, I was in Coo's world


We were sucked into a passageway that was enclosed on both sides by high walls
We were at a city entrance, I think


My body kept trembling, and I could barely walk as I held on to Coo

HOW DO WE GET UP FROM HERE?
Like a canal that had run dry


OVER HERE
RIVER OF TEPPA?!
LOOK, I'LL OPEN IT UP FOR YOU GET OUT OF THAT PLACE THIS VERY MINUTE
HEY YOU THERE!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING IN THE RIVER OF TEPPA? IT'S DANGEROUS IN THERE!
Was this the reality that I had to accept?
WHERE ARE YOU FOLKS HEADED?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR HER HOUSE
SHE'S LOST?
NOT ONLY THAT BUT SHE MIGHT'VE LOST HER MEMORY TOO
That the thirteen years I remembered were an illusion...
That I had been abandoned, my memory lost, and the world I believed to be real until just yesterday was a dream...? A product of my imagination...?

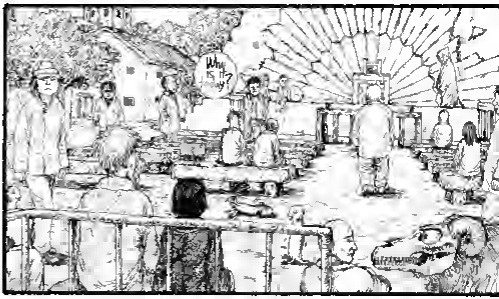
I was traveling with someone who I didn't even know until just a while ago.
To regain my TRUE family, my TRUE memory...?!
Yawn
And that I had imagined a total stranger to be my brother ?
WHAT POINT IS THERE IN TRYING TO FIND THEM? I DON'T THINK I'D BE WELCOME THERE MY REAL PARENTS THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH ME
BUT COO...IF MY FAMILY DID ABANDON ME...
It really IS starting to feel like I met him just a few months ago.
With this stranger...
I'M SCARED OF MY TRUE MEMORY COMING BACK. WILL YOU LET ME LIVE IN YOUR VILLAGE?
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME BEFORE? THAT I COULD LIVE IN YOUR VILLAGE IF WE NEVER FIND THEM?

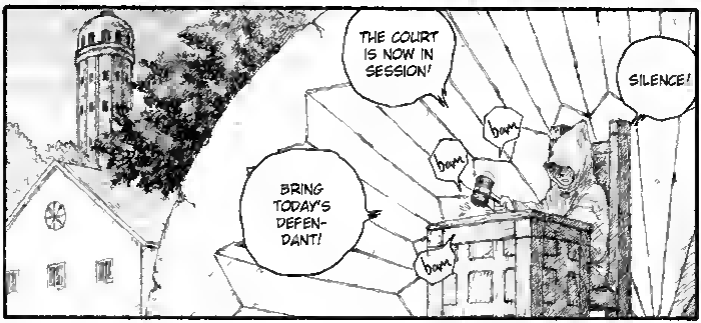
I MEAN, HEY! WHATEVER YOUR PAST MAY BE, YOU'RE YOU, RIGHT?
YEP!
YES!
YEAH, I DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T TAKE YOU ON...
BUT ARE YOU SURE?
...COO
WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR ME? AREN'T WE JUST STRANGERS?
But if you stop to think about it, it makes no sense. We're total strangers...
I'd taken it for granted until now that he'd try and help me. I believed him to be my brother, after all.
W-WELL

THEY'RE GONNA BEGIN TODAY'S TRIAL!
Klang
Klang

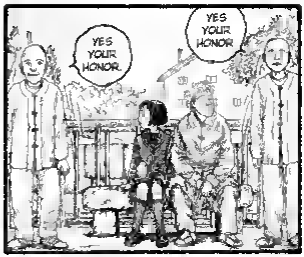
GATHER UP, PEOPLE!

YOU SEE, IT'S
HEY
Klang


Why is it?


THE COURT IS NOW IN SESSION!
SILENCE!
BRING TODAY'S DEFEN-DANT!
Boom
Boom
Boom

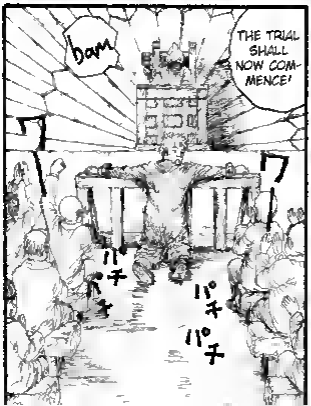
WHAT IS THIS..?
HEY!

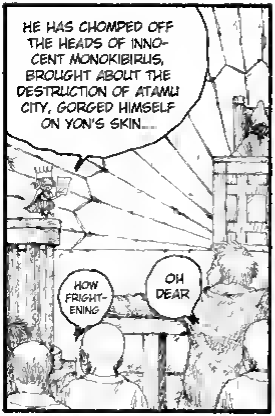

YES YOUR HONOR
YES YOUR HONOR

HUH?

COO!

WHAT?!


bam
THE TRIAL SHALL NOW COMMENCE!


HE HAS CHOMPED OFF THE HEADS OF INNOCENT MONOKIBIRUS, BROUGHT ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF ATAMI CITY, GORGED HIMSELF ON YON'S SKIN...
HOW FRIGHTENING
OH DEAR

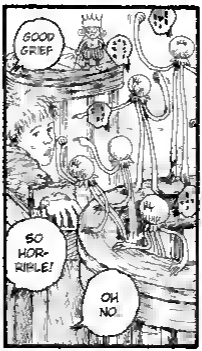
PLEASE ALLOW ME, YOUR HONOR, TO EXPOSE FOR ALL TO SEE AND HEAR THE EVILS THAT THIS MAN HAS WROUGHT

NAME YOURSELF, DEFENDANT
WHAT?! WELL I'M COO...

MY GOD!
HE ISN'T HUMAN!
SINNER!
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
OH LORD
THOSE POOR SOULS
DEVOURED IPPO FLESH HUMILIATED LORD DAKITAI AND ABANDONED MEW TO HER DEATH THE DEPRAVITY OF HIS FOUL DEEDS SHOCKS THE CONSCIENCE

SOB SOB
KEEP STRONG DEAR
POOR GIRL

UM, WELL
REALLY ?!


GOOD GRIEF
SO HORRIBLE!
OH NO

SUMMON THE WITNESSES!

Meu...
HOW COULD HE?!
Weep Weep
DID HE, REALLY ?!
...
UNBE-LIEV-ABLE!
OH
OH
SOME OF THAT'S COMPLETELY UNTRUE!
AND HE DID TRY TO HELP ME SURE HE KEPT COMPLAINING BUT HE TRAVELED ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR ME TO HELP ME FIND MY HOME...
YES, HE'S DONE SOME TERRIBLE THINGS
HE'S COARSE, HE'S CRUDE, HE'S THOUGHT-LESS - HE'S FULL OF FAULTS...
THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, I MUST SAY!
NEED WE EVEN DELIBERATE ON THIS MAN'S VERDICT?
DAMN RIGHT
WAIT!!

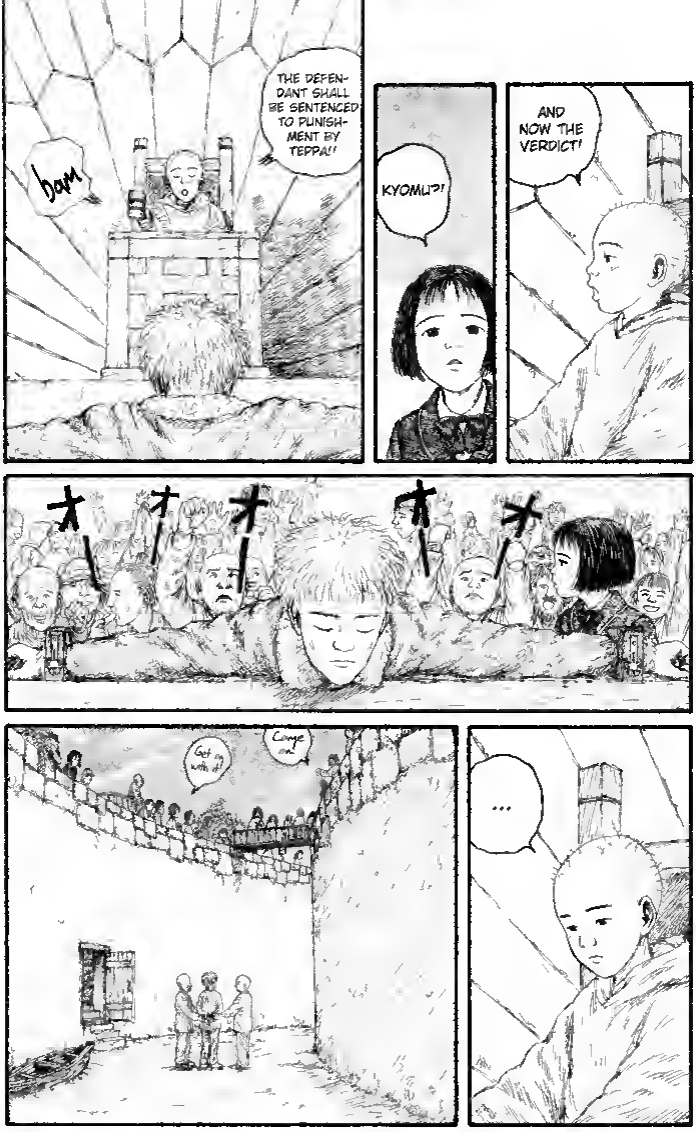
!!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, HE LURED HIS OWN SISTER INTO...

THIS MAN HAS DONE THE UN-THINK-ABLE!!

BUT I...
BUT THERE'S MORE!!

AAARRRGGHH !!!

YEAH, THE BLAME'S ALL ON ME! I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT!
NICE CHARADE YOU GOT GOING ON HERE!
WHA...
WHAT?
OKAY, ENOUGH OF THIS! GIVE ME THE GODDAMN VERDICT!!
WHA...
MAN, I WAS SO CLOSE
...
VERY WELL

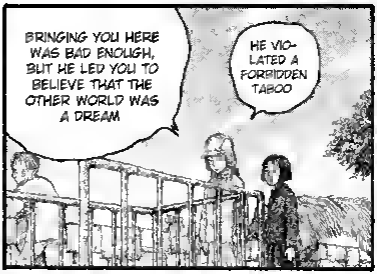

bam
THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE SENTENCED TO PUNISHMENT BY TEPPA!!
KYOMU?!
AND NOW THE VERDICT!
オー
Get with it!
Come on!
...

WHAT'S GOING ON, KYOMU?!

YEAH WE'RE WAIT-ING
HEY WE'RE WAIT-ING

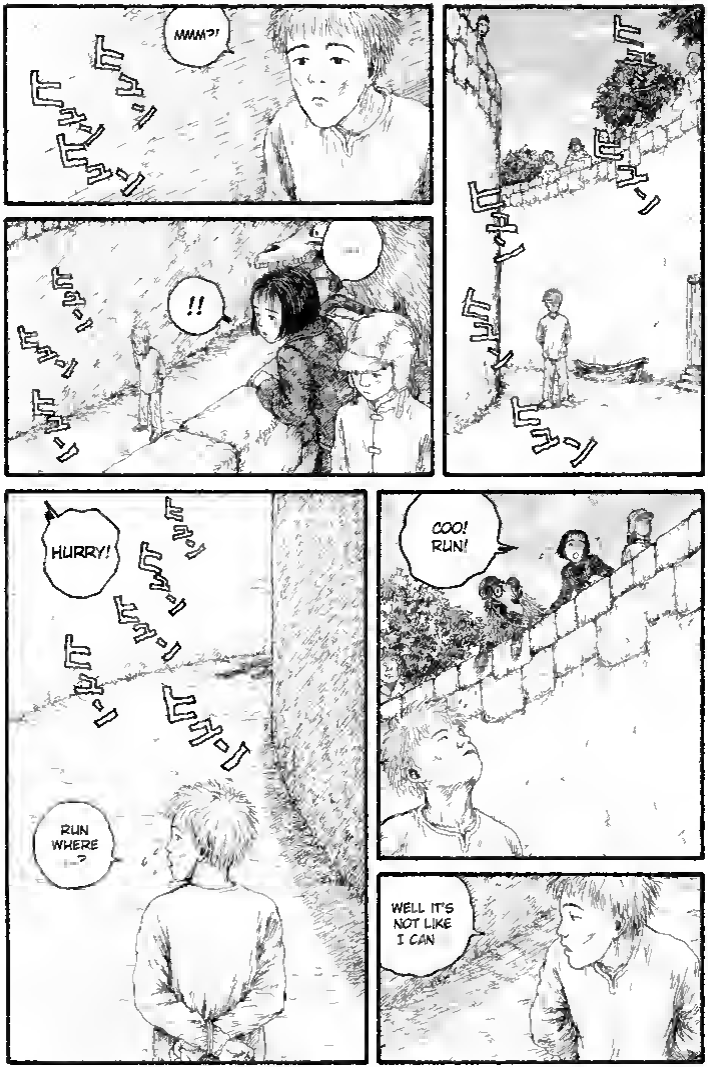
ガヤ ガヤ
ガヤ ガヤ
バタン!

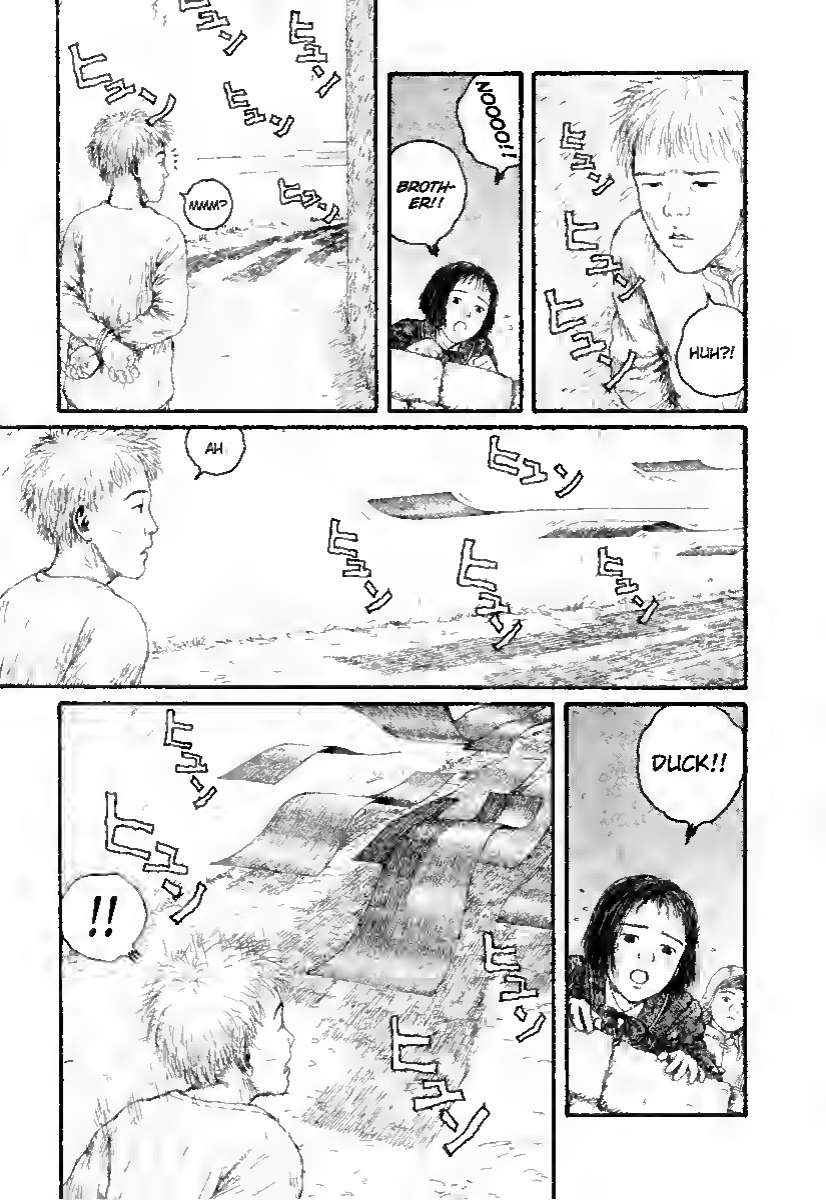
OKAY, HERE IT COMES!


BRINGING YOU HERE WAS BAD ENOUGH, BUT HE LED YOU TO BELIEVE THAT THE OTHER WORLD WAS A DREAM
HE VIO-LATED A FORBIDDEN TABOO

KYOMU, WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
MAN THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD!
ヒソヒソ
WAIT-ING

THOUGH IT SEEMS HE HIMSELF DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO GO THAT FAR...
SO I WAS...
BUT... WHY...?


MMM?
!!
COO! RUN!
HURRY!
RUN WHERE —?
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN


ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
MMM?
NOOOO!!
BROTHER!!
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
HUH?!
AH
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
!!
ヒュン
ヒュン
DUCK!!

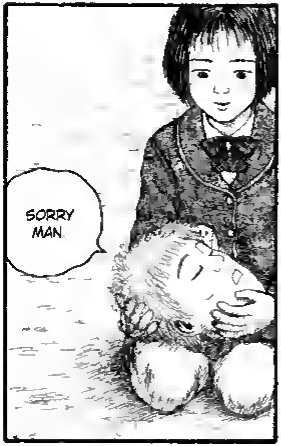
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ

…
オー
オー
オーオー
オー
オー
オー

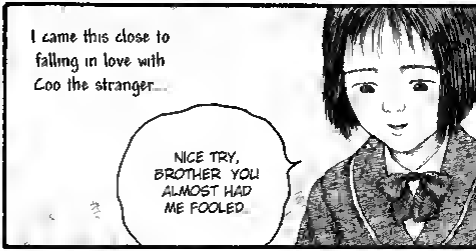
Yeah, it was great
Nice one today, eh?

BRO…
COO…

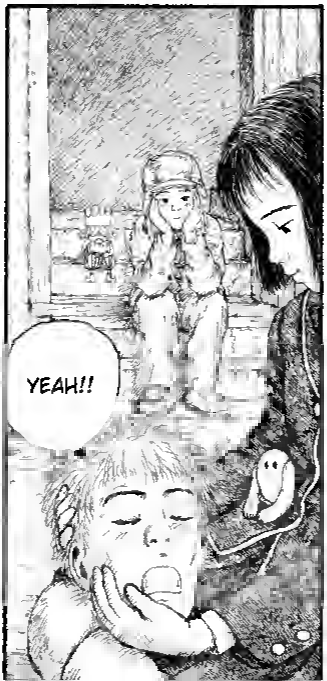
Yuuka!

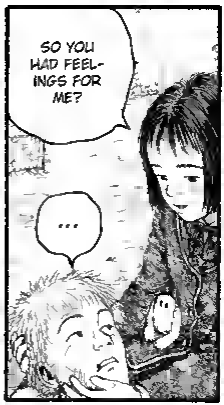

SORRY MAN

WHICH-EVER IS FINE...

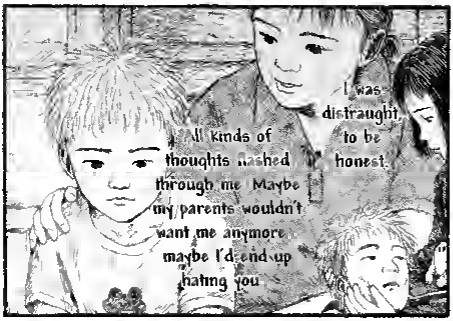

I came this close to falling in love with Coo the stranger...
NICE TRY, BROTHER YOU ALMOST HAD ME FOOLED

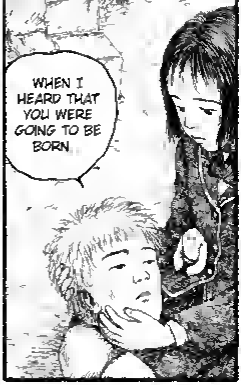
SIGH...

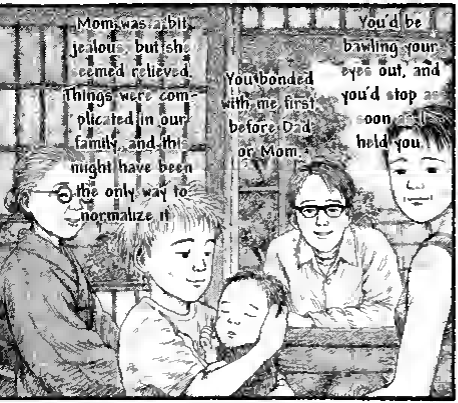

YEAH!!


SO YOU HAD FEEL-INGS FOR ME?
...

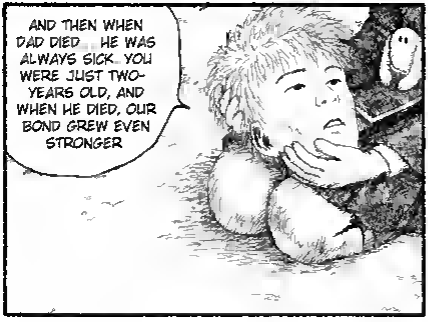
...


All kinds of thoughts rushed through me. Maybe my parents wouldn't want me anymore. Maybe I'd end up hating you.
I was distraught, to be honest.


WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE GOING TO BE BORN

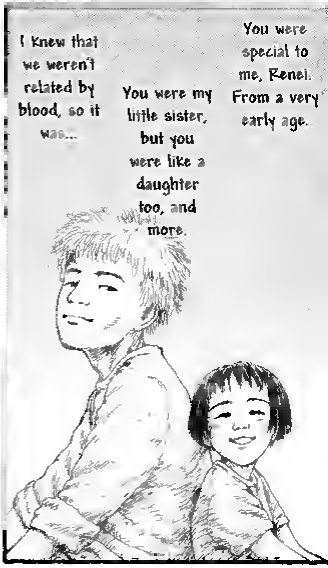

Mom was a bit jealous, but she seemed relieved. Things were complicated in our family, and this might have been the only way to normalize it.
You bonded with me first, before Dad or Mom.
You'd be bawling your eyes out, and you'd stop as soon as I held you.

My natural mother had just died, so I was afraid I'd have nowhere to go...
But... you took to me instantly.


AND THEN WHEN DAD DIED... HE WAS ALWAYS SICK. YOU WERE JUST TWO-YEARS OLD, AND WHEN HE DIED, OUR BOND GREW EVEN STRONGER

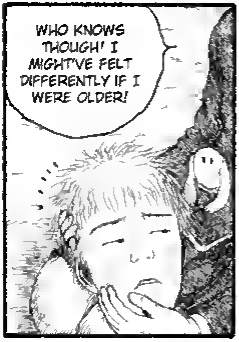
I USED TO THINK THAT YOU MUST'VE KNOWN ALL THAT, EVEN AS A LITTLE BABY.

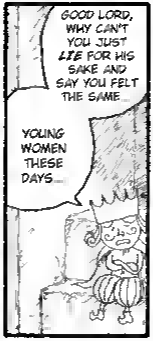
WHEN I MOVED AWAY AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, IT WAS TO GET AWAY FROM YOU.
I WAS AFRAID OF YOU GROWING UP. WE WOULD COME TO LOVE EACH OTHER AS MAN AND WOMAN ONE DAY
YOU MUST'VE SENSED IT TOO.

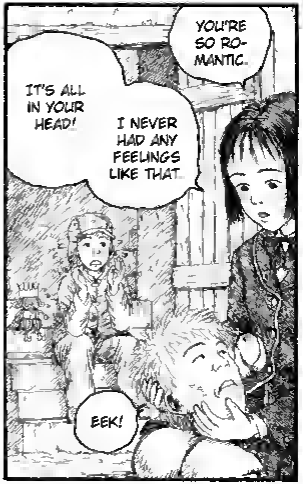

I knew that we weren't related by blood, so it was...
You were my little sister, but you were like a daughter too, and more.
You were special to me, Renei. From a very early age.

B-BROTH-ER... YOU'RE SO...

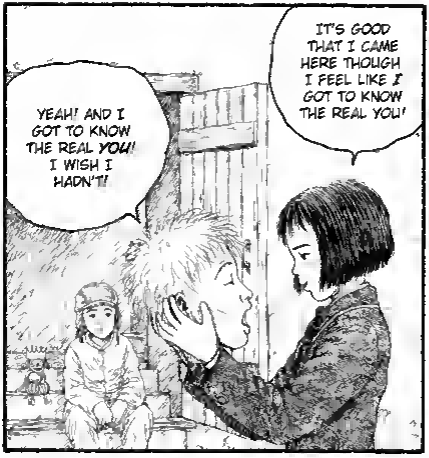
RENEI


WHO KNOWS THOUGH! I MIGHT'VE FELT DIFFERENTLY IF I WERE OLDER!


GOOD LORD, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LIE FOR HIS SAKE AND SAY YOU FELT THE SAME.
YOUNG WOMEN THESE DAYS...


YOU'RE SO ROMANTIC.
IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD!
I NEVER HAD ANY FEELINGS LIKE THAT.
EEK!

COME ON RENE! YOU SHOULD STAY HERE!
EXACTLY! YOU THINK THAT TOO, RIGHT?! I THOUGHT YOU WOULD!
WHA !
YOU KNOW BROTHER, I LIKED YOU BETTER IN THIS WORLD. YOU SEEM MORE ALIVE HERE.
GIVE ME BACK MY DREAM!
YOU HAVE TO STOP PULLING ME INTO YOURS
THIS IS MY DREAM MINE
BROTHER! YOU CAN'T KEEP ON LIKE THIS!
I SEE...
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
BULL! YOU WANTED TO COME HERE!


YEAH! AND I GOT TO KNOW THE REAL YOU! I WISH I HADN'T!
IT'S GOOD THAT I CAME HERE THOUGH I FEEL LIKE I GOT TO KNOW THE REAL YOU!

Maybe it was MY inner feelings that kept dwelling in the past...
I still couldn't come to terms with his death...
Come to think of it, I don't think I was myself when April began.

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チョロ チョロ

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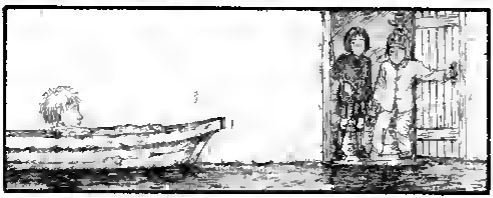

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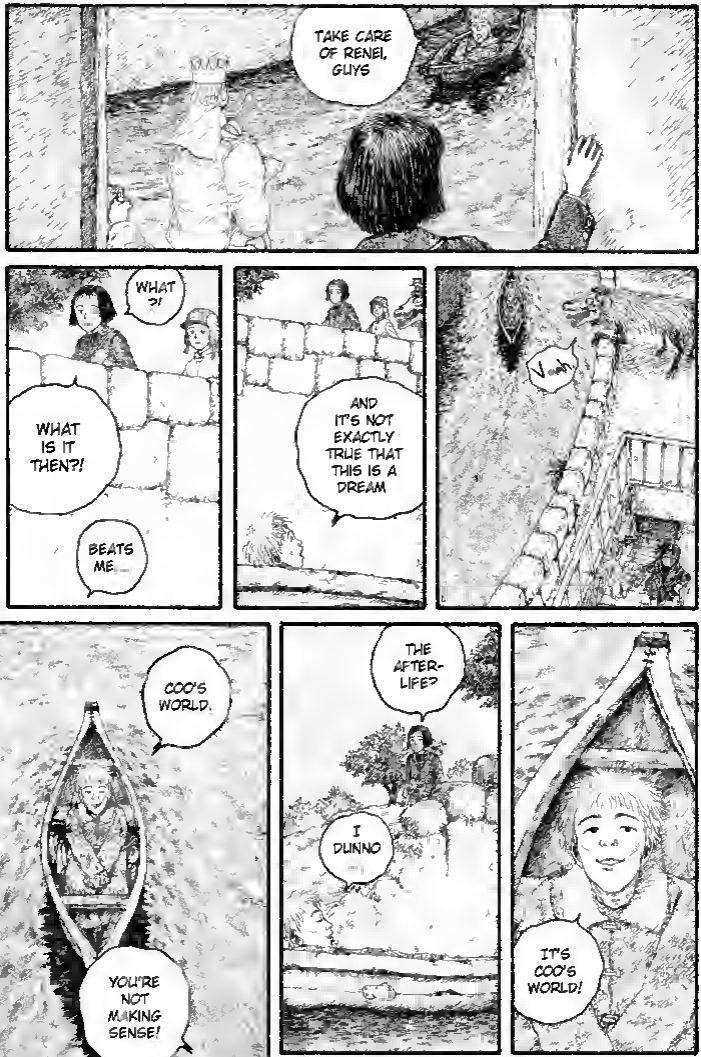
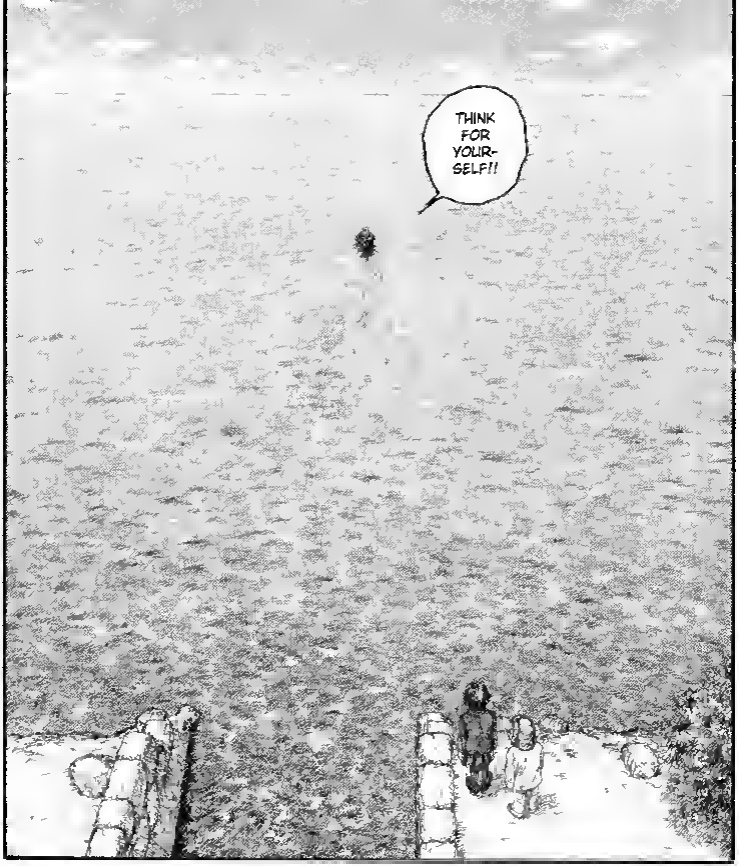

TAKE CARE OF RENEI, GUYS
WHAT ?!
WHAT IS IT THEN?!
BEATS ME...
AND IT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE THAT THIS IS A DREAM
Yeah
COO'S WORLD.
YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE!
THE AFTER-LIFE?
I DUNNO
IT'S COO'S WORLD!


THINK FOR YOUR-SELF!!

So long
Yeah.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING
...
PHEW
MIND IF I DOZE OFF A BIT?

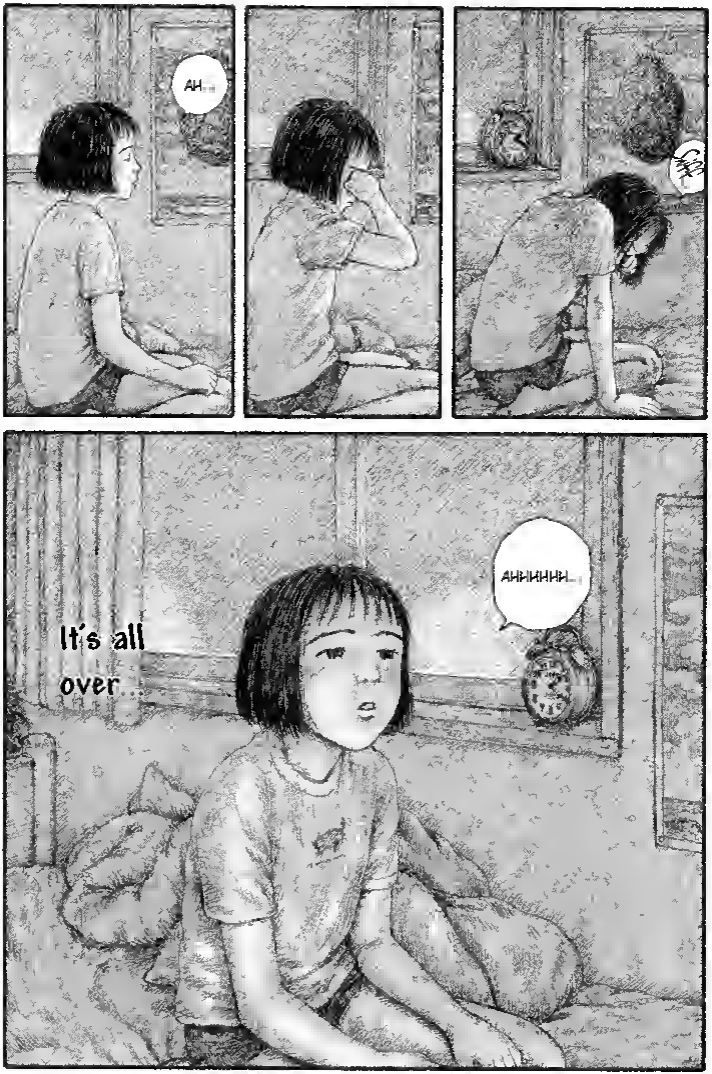
...
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
B...
B...
BROTHER!
ZO
ZO

BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!

BROTHER!
BROTHER!
BROTHER!

...SILLY GIRL!

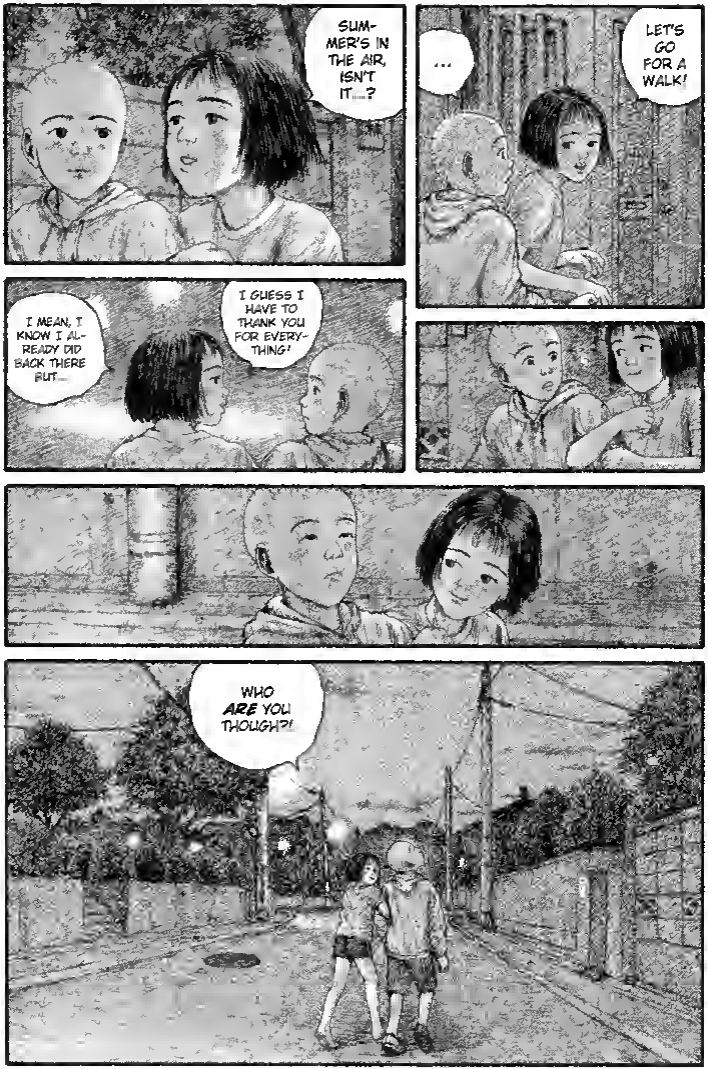
...


AH...
SNIFF
It's all over...
AHHHHHH...

I'm all right now!
MGH...
!
clankle clankle
NRRRRR.

UMPH...
RE...

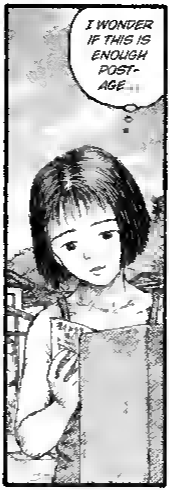
whee!

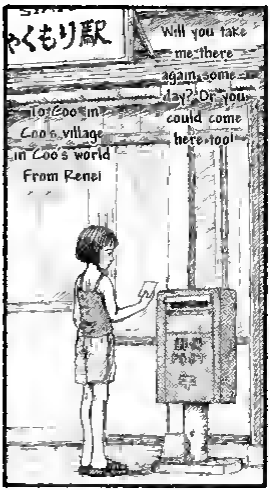

SUM-MER'S IN THE AIR, ISN'T IT...?
...
LET'S GO FOR A WALK!
I GUESS I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!
I MEAN, I KNOW I AL-READY DID BACK THERE BUT...
WHO ARE YOU THOUGH?!

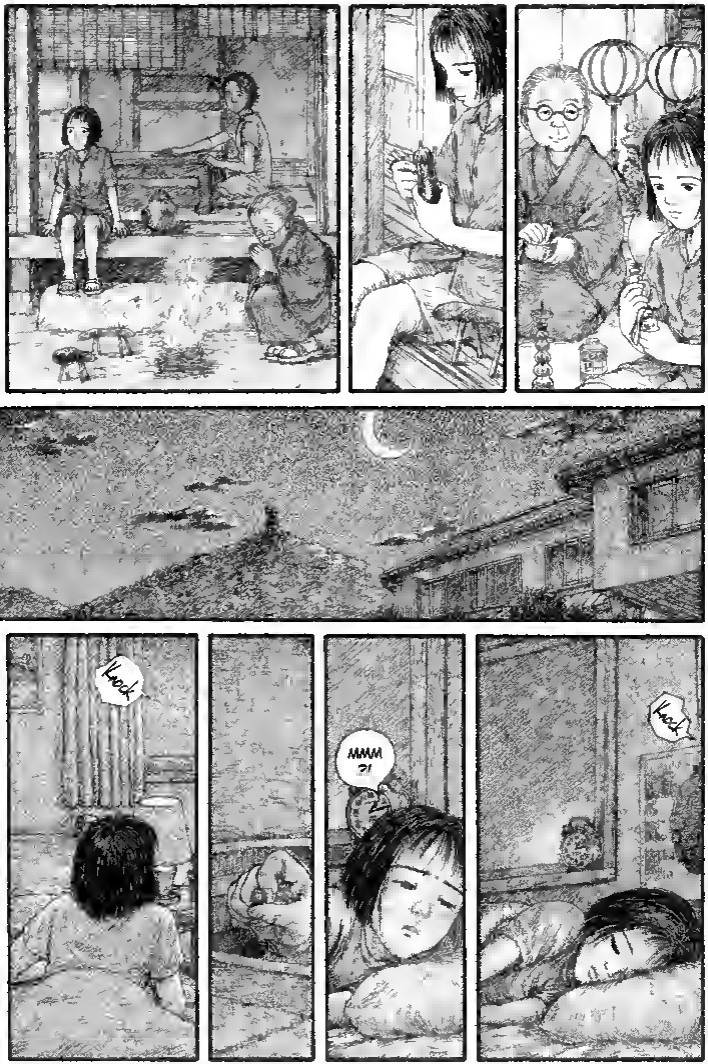
Midsummer greetings to everyone Coo Kyomu Coo's mother, King, Udo, Hishi, Ippo how are you all doing?
I'm doing fine, but I miss you guys. I get all nostalgic, and I find myself wanting to go back at times.

The sequential dreams have stopped...
I regained my dream and it became mine only again

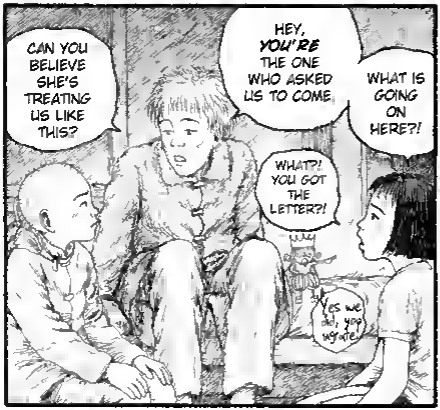
HYAKUMORI STATION
ひゃくもり駅

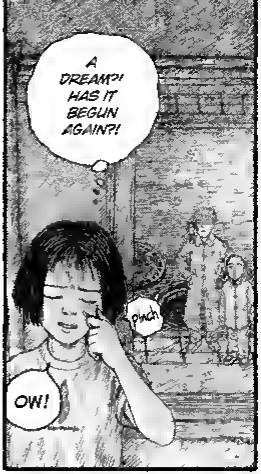

I WONDER IF THIS IS ENOUGH POSTAGE

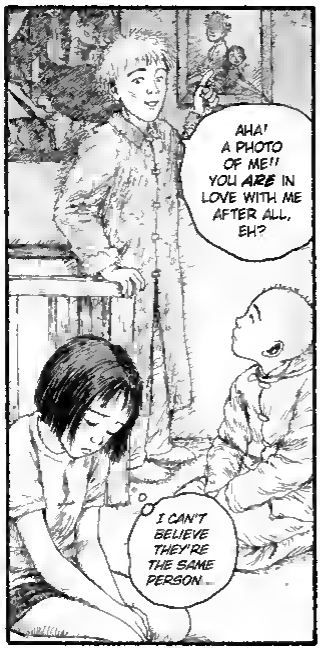

ひゃくもり駅
Will you take me there again some day? Or you could come here too!
To: Coo in Coo's village in Coo's world
From Renai

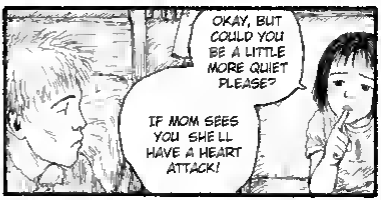

knock
knock
MMM
?!

RYOTA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! IT'S MIDNIGHT!
ding dong
OUTTA THE WAY
I'm here, Mom!
EEK?!
COME ON, MOVE IT, WILL YOU?
We come!
YO!


CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S TREATING US LIKE THIS?
HEY, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED US TO COME
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
WHAT?! YOU GOT THE LETTER?!
(ES WE ALL, YOU KNOW)

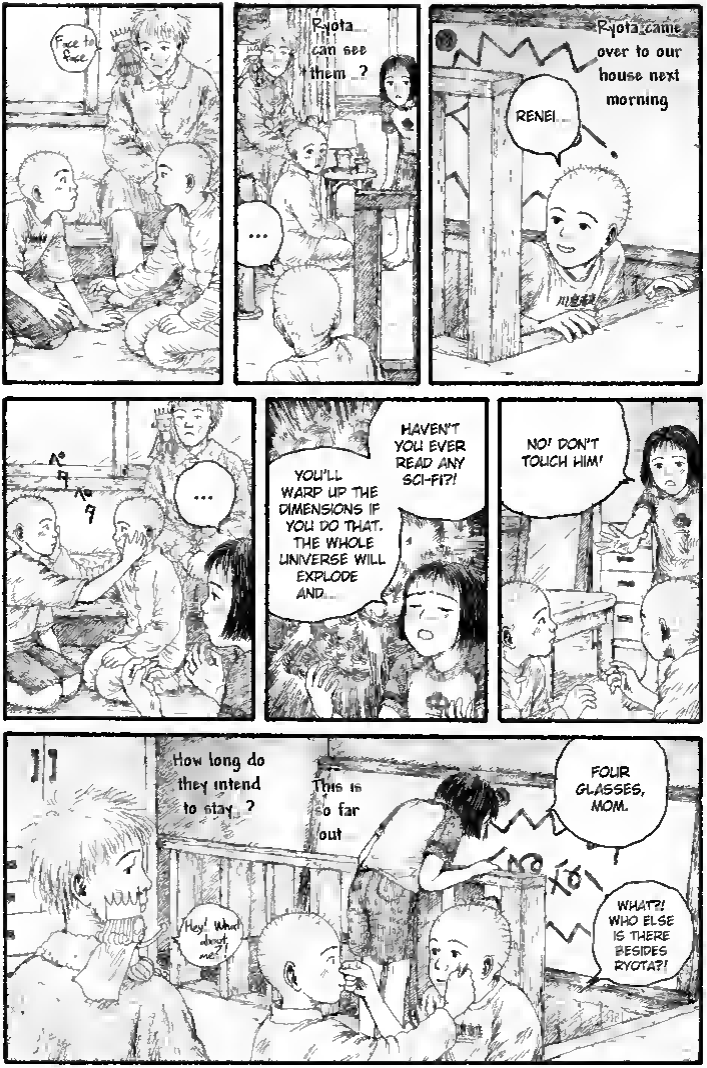

A DREAM?! HAS IT BEGUN AGAIN?!
PUCH
OW!

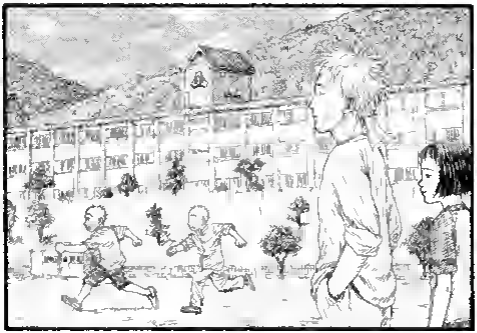

AHA! A PHOTO OF ME!! YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH ME AFTER ALL, EH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON...


OKAY, BUT COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE QUIET PLEASE?
IF MOM SEES YOU SHE'LL HAVE A HEART ATTACK!

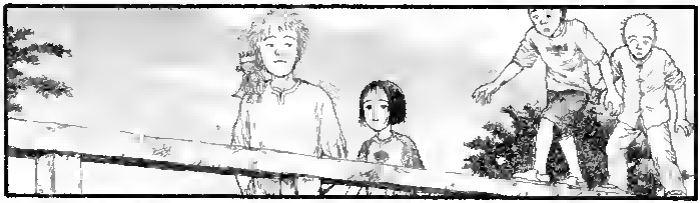
NUH-UH OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T SEE US

WELL ISN'T THAT NICE...
OH WELL, NOTHING WILL SHOCK ME NOW ANYWAY

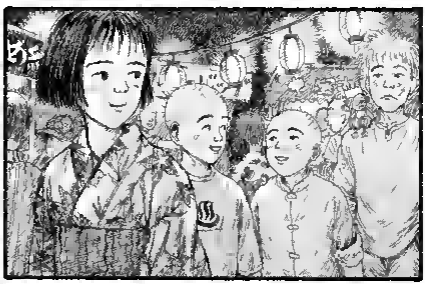

Face to Face
Ryota can see them...?
...
Ryota came over to our house next morning
RENE!
...
HAVEN'T YOU EVER READ ANY SCI-FI?
YOU'LL WARP UP THE DIMENSIONS IF YOU DO THAT. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WILL EXPLODE AND...
NO! DON'T TOUCH HIM!
How long do they intend to stay...?
This is so far out
Hey! What about me?!
FOUR GLASSES, MOM.
WHAT?! WHO ELSE IS THERE BESIDES RYOTA?!

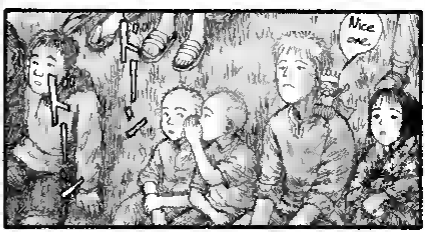


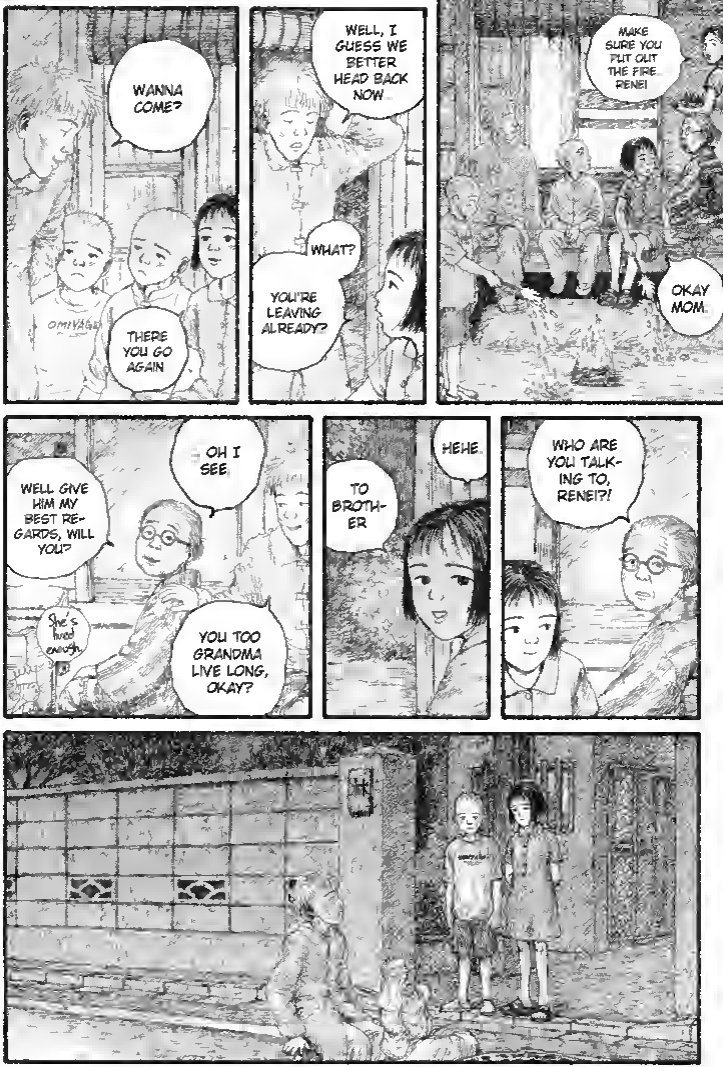
I think I'm going insane!

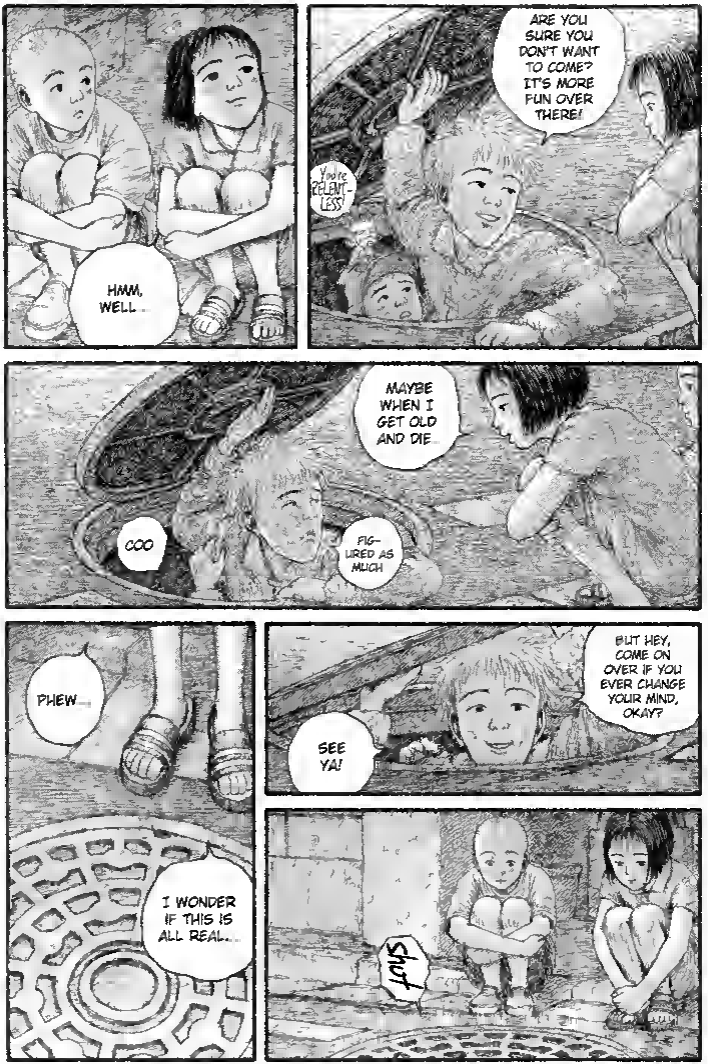


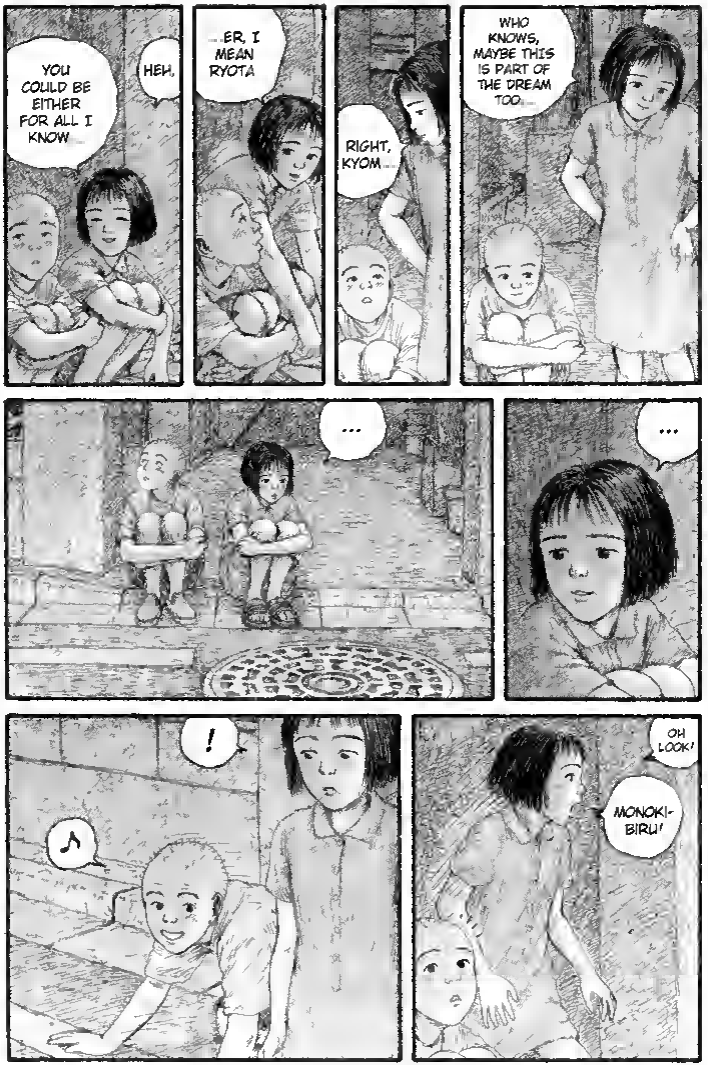
ドーン
ドーン
Hanabi



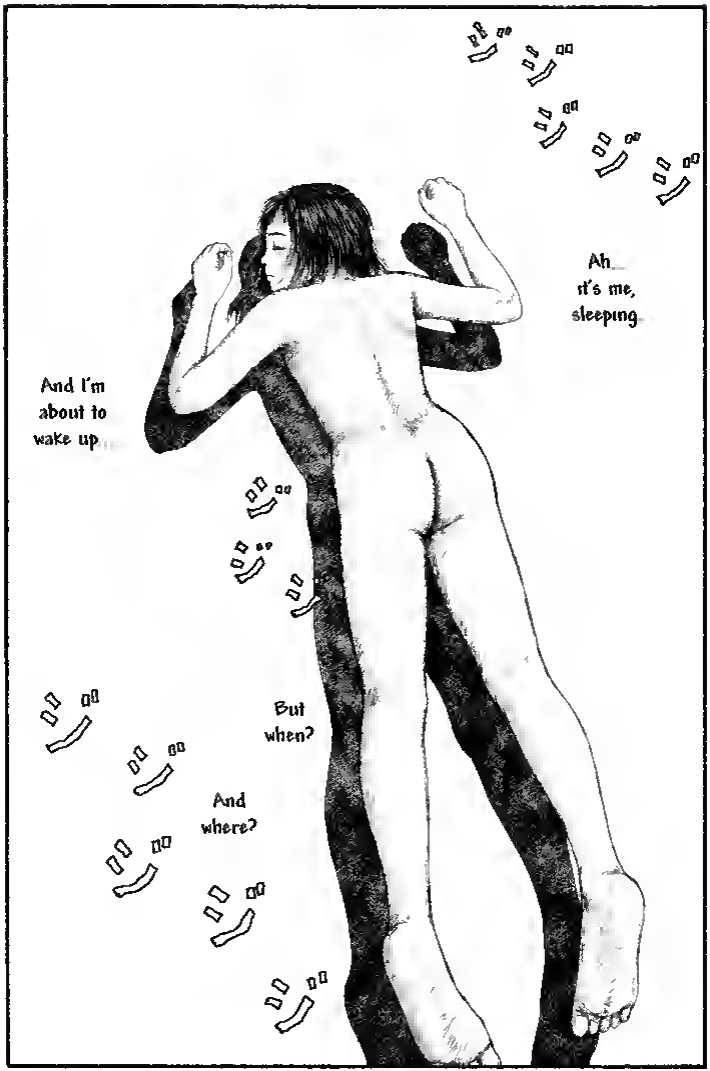

Nice one.

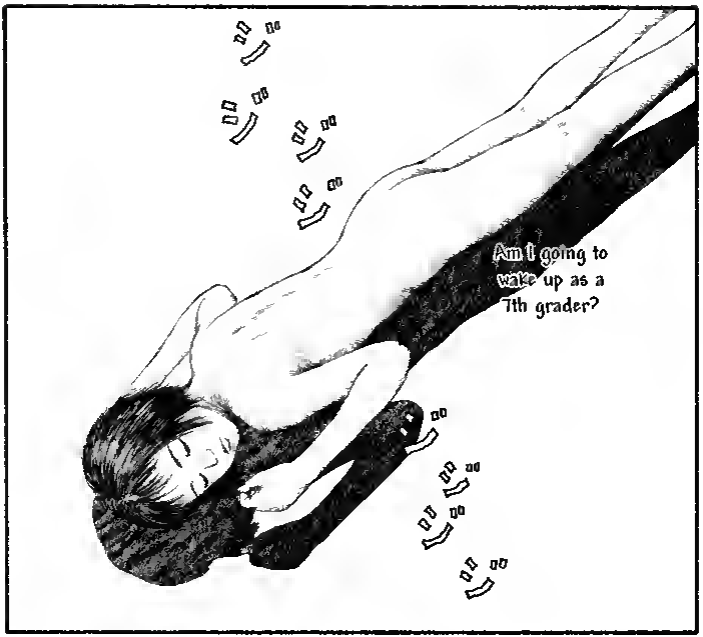

WANNA COME?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN
OMIYAGE!
WELL, I GUESS WE BETTER HEAD BACK NOW.
WHAT?
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
MAKE SURE YOU PUT OUT THE FIRE, RENE!
OKAY MOM.
OH I SEE.
WELL GIVE HIM MY BEST REGARDS, WILL YOU?
She's tired enough.
YOU TOO GRANDMA LIVE LONG, OKAY?
HEHE.
TO BROTHER
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, RENE!?!

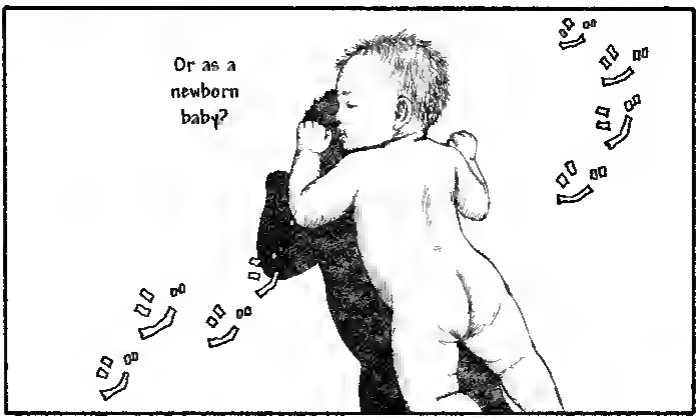

HMM, WELL...
You're RELENT-LESS!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME? IT'S MORE FUN OVER THERE!
COO
FIG-URED AS MUCH
MAYBE WHEN I GET OLD AND DIE...
PHEW...
I WONDER IF THIS IS ALL REAL...
SEE YA!
BUT HEY, COME ON OVER IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, OKAY?
sigh


YOU COULD BE EITHER FOR ALL I KNOW...
HEH.
...ER, I MEAN RYOTA
RIGHT, KYOM...
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THIS IS PART OF THE DREAM TOO...
...
...
!
♪
OH LOOK!
MONOKI-BIRU!

...
...
KYOMU ?!
OMIYA
...
RRRRRRRRR

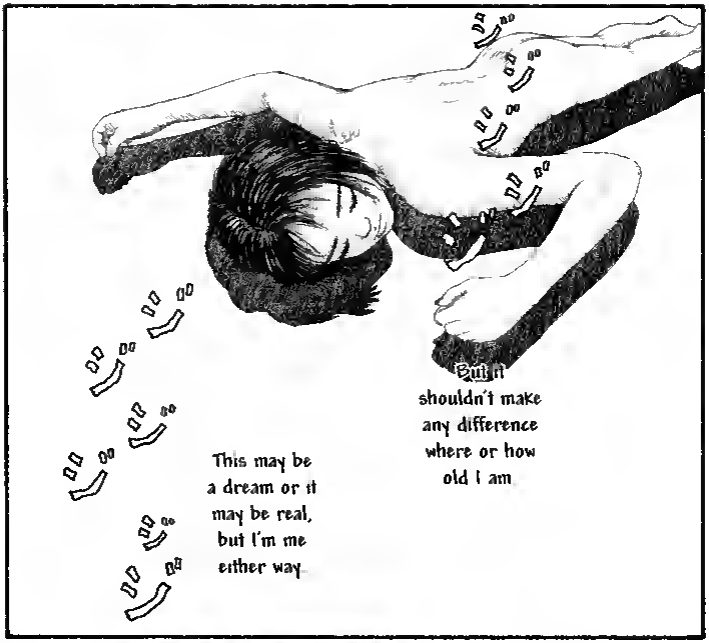

Ah... it's me, sleeping...
And I'm about to wake up...
But when?
And where?


Am I going to wake up as a 7th grader?


Or as a newborn baby?

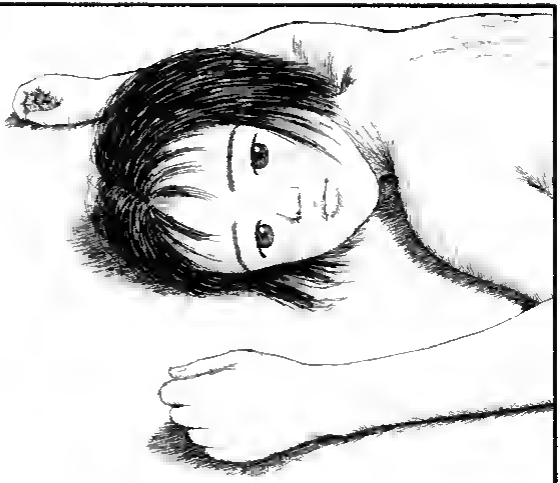
Or...

Or...


This may be a dream or it may be real, but I'm me either way
But it shouldn't make any difference where or how old I am

But
I know what I want to do. I know how I want to live So, I'll be all right!
And I know

But... what if I'm NOT me...?
What if I'm not even human...?
Even though it's a little scary...
I'm going to open my eyes.
But... I think I can handle that too!
This is a little frighten-ing but...
I just have to work up a little courage...
Here I go!!



クーの世界

COO'S WORLD

Translator's note

In Japan, people usually call their older brothers "Brother", in the same way that speakers of English would call their fathers "Dad" or "Father". Normally, I would translate this not as "Brother", but as whatever his name is, since that is more common in English. However, this was not an option with Coo's World, as his name is never revealed, so I had no choice but to leave it as "Brother"(although I did try to replace it with "my brother" or "he/him/his" as much as possible). Additionally, readers will notice that his mother and grandmother also refer to him as "Brother". Strange as it may sound in English, this can also happen in the Japanese language, and again, I could not figure out a way to solve this other than to leave it as "Brother."

Editor's Little Note:
A big thanks to TragicKingdom From #Dragonvoice For helping out with this chapter